

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Take a breath
Bernard Levin on
Michael Heseltine
(below) and free
speech



Take the tube
Skirt lengths are
no longer a fashion issue.
But widths are. Suzy
Menkes reports on the
Fashion Page
Take care
Opposition is growing
among American
scientists to President
Reagan's "star wars"
plan to put weapons
in space
Take a look
Brian Glanville on the
world of football
Take a chance
Computer Horizons
offers another chance to
win a school computer

Three shot dead in gospel hall

Three people were shot dead when gunmen burst into a gospel hall in the border village of Darfuk, near Keady, Armagh. First reports indicated that seven other people were injured.

Schmidt plea on missiles fails

Despite a powerful appeal from former Chancellor Schmidt, the Social Democratic Congress in Cologne rejected the deployment of new Nato missiles in West Germany. Page 6

Falkland forum

Conservative MPs are among politicians, academics and businessmen planning to campaign for a peaceful settlement of the Falkland Islands dispute. Page 2

Villain to hero

Trevor Fishlock describes how Maurice Bishop changed in American eyes from communist despot to local hero in the first of three articles on Grenada. Page 7

Shopping spree

High street shops should see a record Christmas spending spree. Almost 80 per cent of retailers expect November sales to be up on a year ago, according to the CBI. Page 15

Hit for six



Mr Graham Wainwright, father of the sextuplets born in Liverpool on Friday. Doctors twice saved the babies from possible death before the birth. Page 3

Shergar colt

A colt of Shergar, the stolen Derby winner, was sold for 260,000 guineas at Goffs' bloodstock sales in the Irish Republic. Photograph, page 3

The Times

We regret that following an industrial dispute earlier editions of The Times on Saturday appeared with certain pages not in normal sequence. Some items were omitted from all editions.

Leader page 11
Letters: On Cyprus, from Mr F. Noel-Baker, and others; Oxbridge entry, from Mr R. W. Ellis, and Mr S. J. B. Langdale; Calf Abbey, from Lord Gibson
Festivals, pages 8-10
Helmut Schmidt on cruise and Pershing, the social welfare benefits jungle; Labour's new election campaign, by Robin Cook, MP; Spectrum interviews Muriel Sparr; Modern Times on handbags
Obituary, page 12
Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Bromet, the Hon Richard Stanley

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Israeli jet downed but Shamir says raids will continue

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, issued a blunt warning yesterday, after Israeli air strikes on Syrian-held targets near Beirut that Israel would continue to launch preemptive raids and would introduce new tactics against "terrorists in Lebanon and elsewhere".

Speaking last night on the Arabic service of Israel television, the Prime Minister referred pointedly to Syria's repeated threats to go to war with Israel. He claimed that Israel possessed all the necessary information about Soviet missiles sited on Syrian territory, adding: "The Syrians must know that whoever dares to attack Israel will be punished".

During the raids, Israel's dominance of the skies over Lebanon suffered a serious setback with confirmation of the loss of an Israeli jet, only the third to be shot down over Lebanon since the war began there 17 months ago.

Syrian claims to have brought down a second aircraft were denied by the military command in Tel Aviv.

The latest air attacks came as the Israeli Cabinet met in closed session for the second time in a week to discuss Syria's military build-up.

Government sources claimed that "Syrian belligerence" would be a prominent topic at next week's Washington summit between Mr Shamir and President Reagan. There are reports Israel will press the United States to supply it with Pershing missiles.

Yesterday's air strikes, in which the Israeli-built Kfir fighter was lost, were the third series ordered since the suicide

bombing of the Tyre military headquarters on November 4. A military communiqué said that the raids on targets close to the Beirut-Damascus highway, in Syrian-controlled Lebanon, came in response to "a long series of terrorist actions, attacks and attempted attacks against Israeli soldiers, including the planting of a roadside explosive in Sidon last Thursday which caused the death of an Israeli soldier and the wounding of six others."

● **AINTOURA, LEBANON:** Israeli Kfir fighter-bombers ran into a curtain of anti-aircraft missiles over the Aley mountains of central Lebanon yesterday when they launched a series of strikes on Lebanese-controlled and Syrian-occupied areas east of Beirut.

As dozens of Sam 7 rockets, shoulder-fired by militiamen on the valley slopes and hillsides, criss-crossed the skies, one jet was hit and fell 5,000 ft to crash

near Beirut international airport.

The pilot parachuted to safety, but only just. He landed not far from the headquarters of the British contingent to the multinational force, but only 200 yards from the suburbs controlled by Shia Muslim militias. His aircraft, with its air-to-air missiles still attached to the broken wings, lay smouldering on the Beirut front line between Lebanese troops and Shia gunmen.

The air attacks, which involved up to 18 jets, raised two serious questions about the reprisal policy adopted by the Israelis, most recently by the French and potentially by the Americans.

First, the Israeli jets flew up the Lebanese coastline above ships of the US Sixth Fleet before turning over the US Marine base to begin their bombing runs.

Yet the Americans, who claim they have no foreknowledge of Israeli raids, made no attempt to defend their fleet or clear the airspace over the multinational force, suggesting they knew of the raid in advance or coordinated it with the Israelis.

Second, the Israelis were attacking areas controlled principally by the Druze, who almost certainly have no connection with the guerrilla assaults in the south which the Israelis believe to be the responsibility of the Shia Muslim groups.

The Israelis could hardly have anticipated the groundfire into which their aircraft flew. As the raid began shortly after 2pm, it was driving on the

Lucky escape: An Israeli pilot drops to safety.

Continued on back page, col 1

Jumbo tour in Kipling country



Sahib on safari: The Duke of Edinburgh on top of Vandevi on his way to inspect the tigers of Kanha in central India yesterday. (Roar of disapproval, page 6)

Three Kremlin factions emerge as Andropov fails to re-appear

From Richard Owen, Moscow

President Andropov's continued absence is creating a power vacuum in the Kremlin and has already led to "extraordinary tensions" in the leadership, sources say. This coincides with the beginning of a campaign fully to rehabilitate the late President Brezhnev.

Mr Andropov has not been seen since August 18 and did not attend the annual Red Square parade on November 7. Medical sources say he has had a kidney operation.

There are persistent reports that this involved a kidney transplant - possibly an artificial kidney from the US but this cannot be confirmed. Officials insist Mr Andropov has a cold.

Sources said three factions were crystallizing as Soviet leaders take stock of the future. General Vitaly Fedorchuk, the tough, powerful Interior Minister and former KGB chief, is reportedly playing a key role behind the scenes.

General Fedorchuk is not a Politburo member, but wields immense influence, controlling the police and judiciary while retaining his KGB links. The Politburo last week approved

measures strengthening ties between the Interior Ministry and the party structure.

Sources said that although he was appointed by Mr Andropov - and was close to him when head of the KGB in Ukraine - General Fedorchuk was now supporting Mr Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr Chernenko, who is 72, was defeated in the leadership race last year, but is acting head of the Politburo in Mr Andropov's absence.

Though widely regarded as politically ineffectual, Mr Chernenko is in robust health and represents aggrieved Brezhnevites who were purged when Mr Andropov came to power but have since recovered lost ground.

The second faction is headed by Mr Grigory Romanov, aged 60, who has the support of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, 50, who has himself been mentioned as a possible successor to Mr Andropov. Mr Romanov and Mr Gorbachov now appear to have formed a tactical alliance.

The two men are close and Mr Gorbachov accompanied Mr Romanov last June when he toured Leningrad to say farewell

to the city he ruled for 13 years before moving to Moscow as party secretary.

The third faction, surrounding Mr Geidar Aliyev, is something of an unknown quantity. Like Mr Chernenko, Mr Aliyev, who is an Azerbaijani, has been in the limelight as chairman of a Politburo committee, on consumer goods. Mr Chernenko heads the committee on education.

President Andropov is said to be under pressure to reappear in public at the earliest opportunity to make it clear he is still in command and to put a stop to factional manoeuvring before it gets out of hand.

He is continuing to make authoritative statements on international affairs through Tass and Pravda, but party officials now preparing for next month's crucial Central Committee are looking for a firm lead and a visible leader.

Mr Chernenko is thought to be the beneficiary and possibly the initiator of a campaign to restore the memory of Brezhnev.

Three days after Mr Andropov's failure to appear in Red Square, Pravda published a remarkable tribute to Brezhnev. At its last meeting, the Politburo discussed celebrations next year marking the thirtieth anniversary of the huge "Virgin lands" project, for which Brezhnev rather than Khrushchev is given credit.

Some observers think the recent report that Mr Andropov was shot by Brezhnev's son Yuri - in itself absurd - was disseminated by the pro-Brezhnev faction, since it leaves the vague impression that the Andropov regime is shaky, while bringing the Brezhnev name once more to the fore.

Spy inquiry sought on South African

There is concern in Western intelligence circles that a highly-placed South African naval officer now on trial for treason may have passed on to the Russians plans for the possible use by the West of the Simonstown naval base in the event of war.

However, British security authorities appeared to be less concerned yesterday about suggestions that he may have disclosed information on British equipment. They dismissed a claim that information from him could have contributed to

By Rodney Cowton, Michael Hornsby in Johannesburg and Craig Seton

the sinking of HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry during the Falklands conflict.

Mr Ted Leadbitter, Labour MP for Hartlepool, who exposed the Anthony Blunt scandal, has tabled a question in the House of Commons calling for a full statement from the Prime Minister.

Mr Kenneth Warren, Conservative MP for Hastings and Rye, has written to the Prime Minister asking her to allow the Security Commission to investigate the case.

If Mrs Margaret Thatcher feels there has been a serious breach of British security, a reference to the commission would be an almost automatic course of action. However, there was no indication last night that she was intending to approach the commission.

Continued on back page, col 3



Gen. Fedorchuk (centre) plays the key role with Andropov (left) and Chernenko (right).

Dickinson to train for Sangster

Michael Dickinson, the champion National Hunt trainer for the past two seasons, is to switch to flat racing in 1986 when he will be private trainer to Robert Sangster, the Poles millionaire and leading racehorse owner (Michael Seely writes). Mr Dickinson will be based at Whatcombe, the historic training centre in Oxfordshire, for which Mr Sangster is believed to have paid around £2m. Mr Dickinson, who brought off the remarkable feat of saddling the first five horses in this year's Cheltenham Gold Cup, said yesterday that he would continue to train jumpers at Harwood in Yorkshire until 1986.

Mr Sangster, whose best horses have included the Derby winners, The Minstrel and Golden Fleece, will be sending some 70 horses to Mr Dickinson.

Closed shop talks go on at Acas

By Barrie Clement

Talks at the offices of the conciliation service ACAS aimed at resolving the National Graphical Association's action against the Stockport Messenger group continued in London yesterday amid threats that the dispute would spread to national newspapers and magazines.

The dispute concerns the long-running argument over closed shop practices.

In a separate dispute, members of SOGAT '82 were expected to extend their unofficial "secondary picketing" of magazines in response to the closure with a loss of 550 jobs of the British Printing and Communication Corporation (BPCC) plant in Park Royal, London.

Sogat's national council will today decide whether to back their members who took action over the weekend disrupting the distribution of Sunday newspaper colour magazines in sympathy with their colleagues at Park Royal.

Meanwhile, Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the NGA, is likely to be advised today by a special meeting of the TUC's employment committee that he should pay the £50,000 fine imposed last week for contempt of court.

He will refuse, inform them of his prediction that his national council will tomorrow back his refusal and tell them that he will be calling on the full General Council of the TUC to give his union financial backing. The NGA's assets could be under threat of confiscation.

Mr Wade's union, which continued to picket the Messenger's Warrington work, yesterday, is attempting to negotiate a closed shop on the company's new three-sheet newspapers.

30,000 miners respond to new redundancy offer

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

About 30,000 miners over the age of 50 have applied for new redundancy payments. But only those few thousand at or near to pits which are closing are entitled to apply for the money offered by the National Coal Board.

The number of requests represents about two out of three pitmen over 50, and is being put forward by the Government as an indictment

of the leadership of Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Suggestions that the pace of applications for severance has increased since the union imposed its overtime ban three weeks ago are not confirmed by officials at the coal board or the Department of Energy, who say it is too early to judge.

Continued on back page, col 8

Cruise arrests pack crowded cells

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Arrests of cruise missile protesters in the past two weeks have increased prison overcrowding and put record numbers of people into police cells.

Such is the pressure on space that prisoners awaiting trial in London, are having to be detained more than 100 miles from the capital.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, who will today announce the building of four new prisons, faces the danger of breaking his promise, made in July, to end the use of police cells for detained prisoners by the end of the year.

Last week the number of people detained in police and court cells reached a record 511.

Mr Michael Romain, a London solicitor, told The Times yesterday that his firm had clients on remand as far away as Boston, Lincolnshire, and Leamington Spa. Not only was it difficult to prepare a client's case, but ordinary visits to arrange for someone to stand bail were limited, if not impossible.

Two or three prisoners are being held without proper sanitation in jail cells the Victorians built to hold one.

One of the wings at Wormwood Scrubs, London, which has been out of use for the past three years, will, however, be available again early in the new

year. By next November, another 190 cells in a remand wing at Brixton, are also expected to come back into use after refurbishing.

From January, short-sentence prisoners will qualify earlier for parole, and this will start taking effect in July. By 1985, the change is expected to result in a reduction of about 2,000 in the prison population.

Despite Mr Brittan's talk of tough new measures for violent offenders, the ultimate success in the prison population is expected to be no more than about 500.

Mr Brittan announced at the Conservative Party conference last month that he was providing 4,900 places in 10 new prisons by 1991 and 4,000 extra places by redeveloping existing prisons. The four new prisons he will announce today will add a further 2,000.

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Tory MPs in campaign for an alternative to Fortress Falklands

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Several Conservative MPs are involved in a move to set up a new forum of politicians from all parties, academics and businessmen aimed at promoting a peaceful settlement of the Falkland Islands dispute between Britain and Argentina.

Delicate discussions are taking place at Westminster about the group, expected to be called the South Atlantic Committee, which it is hoped will be formed by Christmas. Foreign Office ministers have been made aware of the initiative.

Its leaders recognize that they are on sensitive ground and do not expect a warm response for their plans from the Prime Minister, who has repeatedly expressed the view that there is no option to the Fortress Falklands policy.

Mr Cyril Townsend, Conservative MP for Bexleyheath, and Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carriac, Cummock and Doon Valley, who are the key figures behind the move, both served on the all-party Com-

mons select committee on foreign affairs which, though its report was never officially published, earlier this year questioned the long-term viability of a Fortress Falklands policy. It concluded that the government should not turn its back on talks with Argentina.

Neither has been reappointed to the committee, whose membership was fixed last week. Mr Foulkes would not have been able to serve as he had recently been appointed to Labour's front bench as a spokesman on Europe.

The initiative has support already from the Liberal and Social Democratic parties. One of the academic members is likely to be Dr Walter Little, a specialist on Latin-American affairs, who was the chief adviser to the select committee in its inquiry on the Falklands.

Several leading companies, whose business has suffered from the loss of normal relations with Argentina, have expressed an interest in being

represented on the group. Funds for its operation are being raised, and it is hoped to employ a full-time secretary-organizer. Peers and churchmen are also expected to serve.

The venture began during the summer after Mr Townsend, Mr Foulkes and Dr Little, met Argentine academics and officials, along with a panel of American academics, at the University of Maryland, near Washington, and are understood to have established common ground on the need to restore good relations.

Mr Foulkes said that the aim was to encourage people towards thinking about a negotiated settlement to the Falklands problem: the alternative was the building up of Fortress Falklands.

Port Stanley (Reuter) - A Royal Air Force pilot died yesterday when his Harrier crashed on a routine flight over the Falkland Islands, a military spokesman said. The jump jet went down in Lefevre, in the south of East Falkland Island.



World chess championship semi-finalists getting together in London yesterday. From left Gary Kasparov and his opponent Viktor Korchnoi; Vassily Smyslov and his opponent Zoltan Ribli. (Photograph: John Manning)

Korchnoi faces clash of age and politics

Viktor Korchnoi, one of the most controversial grandmasters in the history of chess, yesterday met the young genius from his Soviet homeland, Gary Kasparov, on the eve of what is billed as the greatest chess event in Britain for more than a century.

They play each other at the

Great Eastern Hotel in London today in the semi-finals of the series to produce a challenger to meet the world champion, Anatoly Karpov.

The other semi-final is between Vassily Smyslov of the Soviet Union and the Hungarian grandmaster Zoltan Ribli. Korchnoi, aged 53, and

Kasparov, aged 20, are agreed on one thing: age could be a vital factor when they clash. And, Korchnoi said, so could politics.

Korchnoi, who was born in Leningrad, defected in 1976 after representing his country and then twice challenged Karpov, whom he describes as

"the banner of the Soviet regime", in bitter chessboard conflicts in 1978 and 1981.

But Kasparov, widely tipped as the next world champion, said "I just play chess". The semi-finals were officially opened by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson.

New report sent to DPP on Deptford blaze

By Mark Russell

Police investigating the fire which killed 13 young blacks in Deptford, south London, nearly three years ago have sent a new report to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Scotland Yard refused to comment yesterday on claims that new evidence names a black man as the arsonist who killed 13 young people at a birthday party in New Cross Road.

Black pressure groups have consistently maintained that the blaze was caused by a firebomb thrown by a white racist, and that the police have been engaged in a cover-up.

An inquest held four months after the deaths returned an

open verdict, amid accusations that it had been improperly conducted and that the police had forced young blacks to write false statements.

An application to the High Court by relatives of the dead for a new inquest was rejected last year.

Last week an independent report commissioned and published by the Metropolitan Police called the police handling of the Deptford fire "a disaster".

But it now seems that the police are ready to bring criminal charges. Yesterday's *Sunday Telegraph* claimed that detectives believe a black man, motivated by revenge or jeal-

ousy, and now thought to be in the United States, was "almost certainly" responsible, and that several people have not told the truth about the fire.

Mr Dariusz Howe, vice-chairman of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee, said yesterday: "It is not for me to believe or not believe. We hold to our original position - that whoever did this should be brought to justice, whatever his class, colour or creed."

"What I find curious is that the same time that the Internal Policy Studies Institute criticized the police over New Cross, they come out with this new evidence. I find it quite remarkable."

By-laws threat to Greenham camps

By Pat Healy

New by-laws came into force at midnight last night enabling Newbury District Council to remove tents or anything else that could be described as a building on the land surrounding Greenham Common air base, where the first cruise missiles arrived last week.

But, despite rumours that swept the women's peace camps at the base after "information" from police officers, there was no sign last night that the new by-laws will be enforced immediately.

The women consulted lawyers, councillors and the police on their legal position yesterday and concluded that, despite the new by-laws, immediate eviction would be illegal. The council to ban the playing of games on the common and to remove parked cars, require notices to be posted in the area before they can be acted on.

Some of the women responded to the rumours by beginning to pack essential belongings ready to move to other sites. One said: "We believe there are parts of the common that are not owned by Newbury council and we will move there. There is no way they are going to get rid of us until the cruise missiles have gone."

But the immediate threat of eviction appeared to have been removed when the chief executive of Newbury council said he had only one bailiff and he was away because of illness. The

police said the number of officers on duty at the base had not changed over the weekend.

Hundreds of women visited the peace camps over the weekend, including the actress Julie Christie, large numbers of men arrived, too, and a new notice was put up welcoming their support but reminding them that the peace camps are for women only, and asking them to leave after tea-time each day.

Demonstrations during the weekend were muted, although 17 women were arrested on Saturday night, after dancing in the roadway. They were charged with obstruction.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, has written to the Home Secretary asking him to reconsider the decision to give no more than a fifty per cent government grant towards the cost of policing the base.

Thames Valley ratpayers will have to pick up the rest of the bill, estimated by the police to be £1.5m for the twelve months up to the end of last June.

Mr McNair-Wilson said yesterday: "Greenham has become a national issue not a local one. We have had police from Surrey, Hampshire, Avon and Somerset, Wiltshire and the Met sending in reinforcements and they will have to be reimbursed by Thames Valley Police."

Unionist warning to Adams

From Richard Ford

The largest Unionist-party in Northern Ireland displayed its new found confidence at the weekend by declaring that even after 14 years of terrorism "loyalists" could now never be defeated.

Mr James Moynihan, leader of the Official Unionists, declared to loud applause that Mr Gerry Adams, president of Provisional Sinn Féin would never win as loyalists had the determination and staying power.

Addressing 300 delegates at the party's annual conference in Belfast, Mr Moynihan said that they must never underestimate acceptance of the status quo or the benefits of union with Britain even among young nationalists.

Mr Moynihan urged more thought be given to allowing civil servants from Northern Ireland to play a much larger part in decision making and administration but gave a warning that it was premature to envisage Ulstermen taking ministerial posts.

He added that the party was determined to rid Ulster of direct rule and the order in council system of legislating for Northern Ireland.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he said, had yet to convince others that constitutional certainty was the key to the defeat of terrorism but added that the party shared her view of the desirability of good neighbourly relations with the Irish Republic.

Salmon rights to be auctioned

Some of Britain's best fishing stretches are to be offered for auction next year to support the work of the Atlantic Salmon Trust (John Young writes).

Encouraged by the success of this year's auction, the trust has expanded its list to include stretches on the Wye, Exe, the Frome, the Piddle, the Wiltsire Avon, the Lure, the Dart, the Uss, and the North Tyne, as well as several coverts rivers in Scotland such as the Thurso, the Nith, the North Esk, the Tay, and the Aberdeenshire Dees.

Postal bids which start at £10 a day, must be received before January 1, 1984. Catalogues and information can be obtained from Mr Alex Pritchard, Courthouse, Lady Margaret Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 9QH.

Crane climber trapped for hour

A man, aged 34, slipped while climbing a crane at Bristol City Dock yesterday, and dangled 130 ft above the pavement for more than an hour with his ankles snagged in the boom.

He was rescued by firemen after a policeman noticed him, and was taken to hospital with a broken leg.

Factory death

A maintenance engineer was crushed to death yesterday by the machine he was working on. Mr Ian Marsh, aged 23, of Clare Crescent, Cosley, West Midlands, was killed instantly at Beams Foundry in Tipton, West Midlands.

BMW's blocked

Councillors on Gwent police authority have rejected a recommendation to spend £250,000 equipping the force with West German BMW 525 patrol cars. Instead, Ford is to be asked if the new Granada can be modified.

Bravery award

Mr Alan Roberts, a Cleethorpes fisherman, is to receive a Royal Humane Society award for an attempt to save a man who fell overboard in the North Sea.

Campus battle

Karachi (AP) - Rival student groups hurled grenades and fired pistols and automatic rifles at each other at the campus of Karachi University but no casualties were reported.

Police want stricter security in jails

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

After the escape of the 51st prisoner this year from Sudbury open-prison in Derbyshire, the police have called for stricter security.

The call coincides with government moves to transfer more inmates serving long sentences, including life, to open prisons.

Three murderers serving life absconded from Leyhill open prison, near Bristol, last month, at a time when concern was also being expressed by prison chiefs about "an alarming increase" nationally in the number of escapes by prisoners under escort.

At any one time there are about 200 prisoners on the run after escapes from all types of jail, hospitals or working parties.

The call for stricter security comes from Mr Alan Eastwood, vice-chairman of the Prison Federation, which represents 120,000 officers up to the rank of chief inspector.

He told *The Times*: "There is frustration among police officers who see criminals tried and convicted escape almost at will from prisons."

The escape of 51 prisoners from one jail highlighted the extra work placed on the police in having to recapture them, he said.

"We would view with some disquiet the placing in open prisons of offenders imprisoned on more serious charges," Mr Eastwood added.

The Prison Department is seeking to engage "where appropriate" local authority agencies which govern the type of inmate sent to an open prison.

Lord Elton, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, has told local MPs about moves to lift curbs on three open prisons, Ashwell in Leicestershire, Ford in West Sussex and Kirkham in Lancashire.

A period in open jails for long-term prisoners, including lifers, is regarded as a way of preparing them for eventual release.

The Prison Department's latest figures, in the annual report, show that 131 lifers were being held in open prisons. Last year there was a sharp rise from 38 to 438 in escapes from open prisons, out of a total of 555 from all establishments, an increase from 461 the previous year.

In the first four months of this year 30 prisoners escaped from escapes in 25 separate incidents, which prompted Mr William Britton, Deputy Director-general of the prison services, to speak of the increase as "alarming".

The murderers from Leyhill were recaptured within hours after a police hunt. Darren Marshall, aged 23, the 51st man to escape from Sudbury, was recaptured in Dudley, West Midlands, last Wednesday after being on the run for 22 hours. He is serving a sentence for theft and drugs offences.

Owen speaks of regret at Healey defeat

Dr David Owen said last night he might have stayed in the Labour Party if Mr Denis Healey had become its leader.

"A lot of history over the last five years would have been different," the SDP leader said in an interview on Radio 4.

Lord Owen, who was elected Labour in 1981 to help found the SDP, named Mr Healey as one of his political heroes.

He said it was regrettable that Mr Healey had not "conducted himself in a way that he could have become the leader of the Labour Party". Asked if he would have remained in the party had that happened, Dr Owen replied: "Maybe. Who knows? I hope so."

But he also criticized the Labour right wing for losing touch with reality. Dr Owen said: "I think the fact that Denis Healey did not stand up and fight, which is what he ought to have done, demonstrated how much the rot had set in. Good people were just getting used to compromising on essentials that they had lost sight of reality."

Dr Owen also praised Mr James Callaghan, in whose administration he served as Foreign Minister, as "a sensible and good leader".

Correction

The merger of St Bartholomew's and The London Hospital medical colleges at Queen Mary College concerns preclinical students only, and is not a merger of the whole of the colleges as suggested on November 10. Preclinical students are those in their first two years. Clinical medical and dental students, about two thirds of the colleges' students, will remain in their present medical colleges at St Bartholomew's or The London.

Overseas selling prices

Apple 512K 500,000; 1M 600,000; 2M 700,000; 4M 800,000; 8M 900,000; 16M 1,000,000; 32M 1,100,000; 64M 1,200,000; 128M 1,300,000; 256M 1,400,000; 512K 1,500,000; 1M 1,600,000; 2M 1,700,000; 4M 1,800,000; 8M 1,900,000; 16M 2,000,000; 32M 2,100,000; 64M 2,200,000; 128M 2,300,000; 256M 2,400,000; 512K 2,500,000; 1M 2,600,000; 2M 2,700,000; 4M 2,800,000; 8M 2,900,000; 16M 3,000,000; 32M 3,100,000; 64M 3,200,000; 128M 3,300,000; 256M 3,400,000; 512K 3,500,000; 1M 3,600,000; 2M 3,700,000; 4M 3,800,000; 8M 3,900,000; 16M 4,000,000; 32M 4,100,000; 64M 4,200,000; 128M 4,300,000; 256M 4,400,000; 512K 4,500,000; 1M 4,600,000; 2M 4,700,000; 4M 4,800,000; 8M 4,900,000; 16M 5,000,000; 32M 5,100,000; 64M 5,200,000; 128M 5,300,000; 256M 5,400,000; 512K 5,500,000; 1M 5,600,000; 2M 5,700,000; 4M 5,800,000; 8M 5,900,000; 16M 6,000,000; 32M 6,100,000; 64M 6,200,000; 128M 6,300,000; 256M 6,400,000; 512K 6,500,000; 1M 6,600,000; 2M 6,700,000; 4M 6,800,000; 8M 6,900,000; 16M 7,000,000; 32M 7,100,000; 64M 7,200,000; 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Sextuplets saved twice from possible death by medicine and luck

Britain's newborn sextuplets were saved from possible death at least twice in the crucial weeks before birth by a mixture of medicine and luck, one of the medical team said yesterday.

Dr Richard Cooke, a consultant paediatrician, told a press conference at Liverpool Maternity Hospital, where the six girls were born last Friday, that Mrs Janet Walton, their mother, went into labour at least twice in a crucial 20-week period.

But the specialist medical team gave her various drugs, which stopped the babies being born too early. "It was a mixture of medicine and luck", Dr Cooke said.

"It was early on at a time when we would have wanted her to go on longer into the pregnancy. It is fair to say the babies were saved a couple of times. Had they have been born then, the result would have been far less favourable."

Five of the six girls, who weigh between 2lb 10oz and 3lb 9oz, were breathing normally. Although the second baby was still on a ventilator, Dr Cooke said that he was confident she would survive. "She is the unluckiest one and has immature lungs but this is common with premature babies, who can be on ventilators for as long as seven to 10 days after being born."

"The survival rate in cases like this is in excess of 95 per cent", he said.

Dr Cooke said that the baby had "hyaline membrane dis-

ease", also known as respiratory distress syndrome. "The other five are doing very well."

He added that she was out of bed and walking about.

Mr Abdullah would not disclose which fertility drug Mrs Walton had taken, but he said that it had been used before in multiple births.

Medical experts had hoped to have a video film of the birth, but there was a hitch. Dr Cooke said: "I gather the video equipment worked for only part of the time and it is rather frustrating. Only part of the birth was filmed."

However, photographs were taken for scientific purposes. Meanwhile, the world's press continued to try to buy the exclusive story and pictures.

Mr Rex Makin, a solicitor acting for the Walton, was accepting bids yesterday in a corner of the hospital's reception area. Figures of up to £10,000 were being suggested for the first picture of the couple and their babies.

Negotiations so far suggest that the family may benefit by between £250,000 and £500,000 for its exclusive story over a contract of 18 years.

Prize buy: Shergar's foal with Tommy Stack, manager of his stud in co Tipperary, before last night's sale. The son of the Derby winner which was kidnapped in the republic was auctioned at Goff's bloodstock sales in co Kildare.

Cell lesson

Police at Chadwell Heath, east London, locked 28 children aged four to seven in a cell yesterday. Their Sunday School teacher wanted to make the story of St Peter's imprisonment "as real as possible".

Rifts over Sunday shopping

By Derek Harris Commercial Editor

A flood of expected representations on the controversial question of removing restrictions on Sunday shop opening has started to build up at the Home Office, whose inquiry into the issue is expected to take until the middle of next year.

Sharp differences of opinion among shopkeepers are emerging, in addition to the confrontation between the more obvious antagonists such as the consumers' organisations favouring Sunday opening and the Lord's Day Observance Society with its heated defence of the traditional Sunday.

Five assessors have been appointed by the Home Office to ensure that a full spectrum of evidence is available by November 30, the closing date for representations. The appointment of a further assessor, representing the interests of local authorities, will be announced shortly.

The five appointed are: Lord Gallacher, representing large shops and multiple chains; Miss Mildred Head, for small shops; Mr John Flood, retail trade employees; Mr Maurice Healy, shoppers' interests; and Mr Bernard Thimont, the churches.

Lord Gallacher is a prominent figure in the cooperative movement. Miss Head is a former National Chamber of Trade president. Mr Flood is deputy general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers. Mr Healy is policy division head at the National Consumer Council, and Mr Thimont is secretary of the Churches' Main Committee.

The union's representations, in which it emphasizes the high cost of Sunday opening, went to the Home Office at the weekend. But it would be willing to accept opening for up to four Sundays preceding Christmas, provided equivalent time off was given over Christmas or the New Year.

The Retail Consortium, which represents most shopkeepers, is still trying to hammer out a consistent Sunday opening policy.

The Asda grocery chain, part of the Associated Dairies Group, has been a strong advocate of Sunday opening but other grocery multiples are far from enthusiastic. Although there is more support for later opening hours on weekdays, there is lessening support for the idea of Sunday morning opening for the big grocers.

There is a strong lobby for Sunday opening from many companies involved in the do-it-yourself field, especially where such outlets are teamed with garden centres.

Most department stores oppose Sunday opening.



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Babies in private school queue

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A startling increase in the demand for good private schools in London for four-year-olds means parents are having to register their children well before they are born.

Good preparatory schools in Kensington are full for years to come and are drawing up waiting lists for children who are now babies. Miss Jane Revell, headmistress of Falkner House, a boys' pre-prep school in Notting Hill which is registering babies only under three months old said: "For some schools mothers have to put their babies down two days after the pregnancy is confirmed."

The reasons given for the boom are various. First, it is concentrated in the central and more prosperous parts of London where there are few private schools and they are small, and it coincides with the

desire by parents who choose independent schooling to keep their children at home, at least until they are 13, for economic or other reasons.

It is believed that some parents are worried about state primary schools, particularly if they hope to send their children to good public schools demanding a respectable showing in the Common Entrance examination.

They are happy to pay the fees of at least £500 a term at pre-preparatory schools and to pay for extra coaching.

Miss Revell, whose school, Falkner House, feeds St Paul's preparatory school, Colet

Court, and Westminster Under School, said: "Parents go to enormous lengths to try to get their child into a good school. I have parents asking me why the four-year-olds are not doing homework."

A year ago parents could walk in off the street and register their children for Falkner House, a school for boys aged four to nine. Now the school is full until 1987 and has a waiting list of 40 babies a year.

Another possible reason for the increased demand is the rise in the birth rate among social classes one, two and three between 1979 and 1980.

So far 450 civil servants are on strike at the registry's 13 regional offices, but serious delays have occurred only at the Gloucester registry, where instead of the routine searches taking 48 hours they are now taking a week or more.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants have said that if the management redeployes staff the strike could spread to other regions.

The staff who have gone on strike have done so after being threatened with suspension without pay for refusing to cooperate with the new measures.

The Land Registry intends to increase its efficiency by saving jobs, but the Civil Service unions are arguing that the measures put an added responsibility on clerks and that errors are likely to increase.

Dispute is delaying house sale checks

By Christopher Warner Property Correspondent

A dispute over cost-saving measures in the Land Registry could soon cause serious delays for house-buyers because of union opposition to a plan to end certain checking procedures.

So far only a few hundred of the 7,000 civil servants involved in the work are on strike, but the number could increase if the Land Registry management press ahead with proposals to redeploy staff to do the work previously done by those now on strike.

Solicitors and their house-buying clients are becoming increasingly concerned at the possibility of delays in their purchasing, and the Law Society said yesterday that it was monitoring the effects of the dispute.

The society is likely to discuss the matter further in the coming week.

The dispute is over plans by the Land Registry to reduce the checking of routine registrations, which would disperse with about 200 jobs.

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Surgeons wait for heart-lung donor

By Alan Hamilton

Surgeons at Harefield Hospital in west London are standing by on call round the clock to perform Britain's first combined heart and lung transplant.

Their patient is Mr Lars Ljungberg, a journalist aged 32 from Falun in Sweden, who has been at Harefield for a month awaiting a donor. The hospital said yesterday that although Mr Ljungberg was seriously ill, his condition remained stable.

If a donor is found in time, the pioneering surgical team will be led by Mr Magdi Jacob, the Egyptian-born specialist who has conducted 77 heart transplants at Harefield. Past donors have usually been road accident victims.

The surgical team will have to move with great speed. Donor hearts remain usable outside the body for up to six hours, but lung tissues will survive for only about an hour and a half. The whole operation is expected to take six hours.

Mr Ljungberg is suffering from a thickening of the lungs, demanding immense effort by the heart to pump blood through them. He finds the slightest physical or mental exertion a tremendous effort.

Because Mr Ljungberg, who is married with three children, is a foreigner his operation will not be paid for by the National Health Service. The people of his home town have collected £15,000 to pay for his treatment, as well as providing a Swedish nurse.

Although no heart-lung trans-

plant has yet been attempted in Britain, the operation has had some success in the United States. From 16 such operations done in the past three years by a team from Stanford University, California, eleven patients have survived, the longest for two and a half years.

Mr Jacob has studied the techniques used at Stanford. His view, according to Harefield sources, is that a heart-lung operation is only an extension of a straight heart transplant.

Apart from giving hope of new life to the patient, a successful operation would be a professional coup for Mr Jacob and his team. Papworth Hospital at Cambridge is officially designated by the Department of Health as Britain's main transplant unit, and a team there has been working for some months to refine the techniques for a heart-lung transplant.

The Papworth team, which has been working closely with Professor Norman Shumway, of Stanford, has used new drugs to overcome many of the problems of tissue rejection. Mr Ljungberg's arrival at Harefield has much to do with Mr Jacob's close connections with Swedish cardiologists.

Mr Ljungberg's condition, known as pulmonary hypertension, is relatively rare, and even if the operation is successful it is unlikely that more than about 10 people a year in Britain would benefit from similar treatment.

Peer says EEC should cut price of cereals

An immediate 25 per cent reduction in the EEC guaranteed prices for cereals was called for at the weekend by Lord Walton, the SDP peer. That should be followed by modest reductions over four years until the price is no more than 10 per cent above the world market level (John Young writes).

Lord Walton is a member of the Lords committee on the European Communities, whose report recently urged the establishment of so-called guarantee thresholds to curb surplus production.

He told *The Times* that he and some of his colleagues on the committee thought the report did not go far enough, but that they were dissuaded from including their proposals for price reductions.

Those proposals state that the European Commission should set out the quantities of each grain commodity that the Community is likely to need in the ensuing years.

Motorway poses threat to the Green Belt

By John Young Agriculture Correspondent

Increased traffic generated by the completion of the M25 London orbital motorway will create a planners' nightmare, according to Mr Lawrie Freeman, head of the commercial department of Humbers, the estate agents.

Writing in the latest issue of *Humbers Commentary*, he observes that the M25 has breached the Metropolitan Green Belt and, far from being the ultimate barrier to expansion, could result in more corridors of development along the "spokes" of other motorways, the M1, M2, M3, M4, M11, M20, M23 and M40.

Meanwhile, the local authority associations the Civic Trust, the Council for the Protection of Rural England, and the National Farmers Union meet today to express concern at the threat to the Green Belt posed by a relaxation of planning controls.

Sale room

Auction record for vitrine cabinet

By Hoon Mallalieu

In New York on Saturday an auction record of \$275,000 (£183,333) was set for a piece of twentieth century furniture. It was paid by a private collector for an elaborate jewel-mounted silver vitrine cabinet designed by Carl Otto Czeschka and Josef Hoffmann for the Wiener Werkstätte in 1908.

In spite of the lavish decoration and use of materials used including onyx, mother of pearl, ivory, enamel, opal and lapis lazuli and clusters of Baroque pearls it is an elegant piece and it was rightly seen as one of the outstanding works of the Vienna Art Exhibition in

that year (estimate \$150,000-\$250,000). The two-day sale of art nouveau and art deco by Sotheby's, made a total of \$1,728,281 (£1,152,187) with 14 per cent bought in. A trompe-l'oeil painted wood secretary designed in about 1950 by Piero Fornasetti of Milan, which was decorated with "Piemont" scenes of fanciful Roman architecture, made \$22,000 (£14,666) against an estimate of \$10,000 to \$15,000.

A New York sale of printed and manuscript items of North American interest held by Christie's on Friday produced

\$411,224 (£274,149) with every lot finding a buyer. About half of that total came from the collection formed by Lord Eccles. A first edition of Audubon and Bachman, *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, which was published in New York between 1845 and 1858, sold to a dealer from Pennsylvania for \$55,000 (£36,666), in spite of the lack of part of the text (estimate \$50,000 to \$60,000).

A manuscript document about the sale of a Buckinghamshire Manor, which is signed by Sir Francis Drake, sold to a New York dealer for \$15,400

The GLC has always been progressive when it comes to plans for the rejuvenation of areas like Covent Garden.

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Divorce in Britain: 1

Legal reforms arouse church alarm but may iron out present inequities

"Divorce is like Armageddon," one separated woman said last week. "There are no winners. Just a lot of ruins."

Such apocalyptic statements emerge from a growing awareness that the divorce rate in Britain is now one of the highest in the western world.

Almost 150,000 people in England and Wales get divorced every year and one in three marriages will break up within 10 years, according to a survey by the Church of England. The divorce rate has risen from one in 100 in 1969 to one in 25 today. The divorce rate in Britain is now one of the highest in the western world.

The first important legislation on divorce since the Divorce Reform Act of 1969 has its second reading in the Lords today. The Bill has already aroused controversy. Its critics say it will further undermine the permanence of marriage. The Government, however, maintains it will merely iron out inequities in the present legislation. JOHN WITHEROW, in the first of three articles, looks at the background to the rapid growth of divorce in Britain and considers the possible impact of the Bill.

fallen from one in three 10 years ago, to one in five at present rates.

None the less, 85 per cent of women are married by the age of 25, and nine out of ten have children. The more risky age is between 25 and 29, when one in thirty couples divorce.

Although Britain has a divorce rate well behind the United States, where one in two marriages break up, no one would be rash enough to predict that a similar rate can be avoided here. Experts have constantly predicted a levelling off and yet divorce has continued to climb.

And the new legislation, if it approves the one-year rule, will almost certainly see a sudden surge of petitions from people who have been waiting under the present three-year law.

No one can easily pinpoint the causes for the increase. Mr Robert Chester, reader in social administration at the University of Hull, says it can be attributed to factors that largely depend on your point of view. Some see it in a moral light with a failure to treat marriage seriously enough.

Others see it merely as a result of availability and a removal of the social stigma. And yet others argue it is a result of the changing role of women and of the expectations of marriage.

Whatever the causes, the result is untold suffering and a heavy burden on the state. Dr

Jack Dominian, director of the Marriage Research Centre, estimates the cost of divorce to the country at £1,000m a year.

This is made up of supplementary benefits (the vast majority of divorced women live on state benefits and just the small allowance for one year), absenteeism, children in care, medical treatment (people in the throes of divorce often require tranquillisers and other drugs), and legal aid, in which two thirds of £33m bill is for matrimonial disputes.

Rapid growth

"Divorce is a bigger social problem than unemployment," Dr Dominian added. It has led to a rapid growth in single parent families, many of them struggling on a lower standard of living from state benefits.

Contrary to some men's belief that most divorced women live comfortably from their former husbands' hard-earned income, recent research shows that only one in ten women rely exclusively on maintenance. The majority survive on state funds and from part-time work.

That is perhaps a reflection on who gets divorced. Well-off professional families are likely to be more stable than those supported by unskilled labourers. With some exceptions, the general rule is the less

the income or education, the greater the likelihood of breakdown.

Divorce can also harm your health. According to research in the United States, divorced people are several times more likely to need psychiatric treatment and have a mortality rate up to three times higher than the general population.

Children too are inevitably affected. Only 80 per cent of children aged between 10 and 15 live with both their natural parents, and in the next 10 years it has been estimated that another 1.6 million children will see their parents separate.

American research has found that as a result younger children are likely to have a greater dependence on the mother, and older ones often show signs of withdrawal and aggression.

Many of these children go on to join new families. While two thirds of divorce petitions are made by women, it is the men who are more likely to remarry, and the majority of young divorcees are married again. The man's second marriage is normally to a younger woman than his first wife.

Natural consequence

However, while many people are alarmed by the increase in divorce, others see it as a natural consequence of the greater freedom of women and the growth of the "me-now" generation, partners unwilling to put up with an unhappy marriage merely for the children's sake.

"What amazes me," a divorced woman said, "is not that one in three marriages fail. But that two thirds survive."

Despite this some people have a better chance than others. Figures show that the safest marriage is likely to occur between a couple from the same social class with the man aged about 26 and the woman aged about 23. They should live in the country or suburbs and have two children. Both should have outside interests.

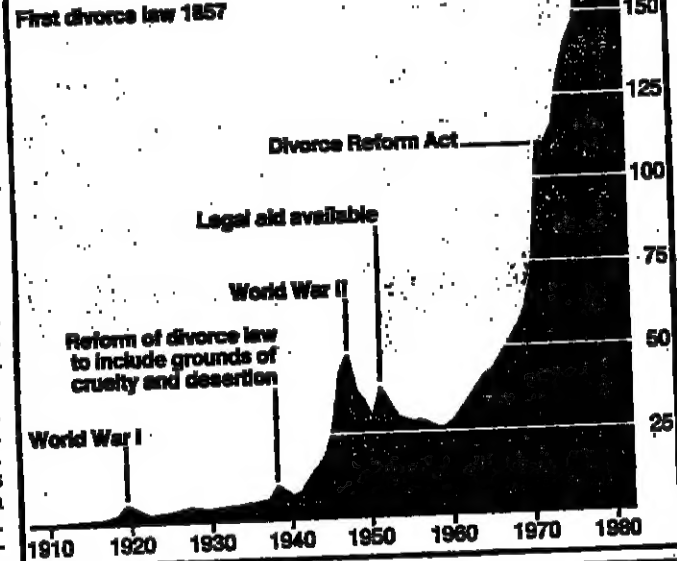
High risk jobs are those involving extensive travel or long periods apart, such as oil rig workers, servicemen and travelling salesmen. While farmers and undertakers are found to have secure marriages, for some reason hairdressers are especially at risk.

None the less few couples are likely to avoid some strife. "A marriage without conflict would be pretty boring," one researcher said. "Some of us maintain that it's healthier to have the occasional row."

Tomorrow: Financial hardship
Leading article, page 11

DIVORCE PETITIONS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

First divorce law 1857



Lorries are seized in tax inquiry

Vehicles worth more than £100,000 have been seized by customs officials investigating cases of alleged diesel fuel tax evasion.

Seven lorries have been impounded in raids by customs men in the West Midlands. An official said: "A number of people have been interviewed and our investigations are continuing."

At least 40 customs agents were involved in the raids on haulage yards and some private houses.

The searches were the culmination of an investigation into cases of the alleged evasion of duty and value-added tax on motor fuel.

Welsh CBI presses for second Severn crossing

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The Government will face continued pressure to build a second crossing of the Severn in spite of the hope that the existing bridge can be made safe.

A survey by the Wales CBI showed that the 24-hour weekday lane restrictions which were lifted last week had troubled its members. One company forecast a 40 per cent rise in its transport costs.

Welsh MPs, representatives from local authorities on both sides of the river, road haulage associations and trade unions are being invited to a conference next Monday in Cardiff, organized by the Wales CBI.

Mr Colin McNab, assistant director, said: "Even if the present bridge was perfect, it is

our view that increased traffic will make the need for a second crossing inevitable by the year 2000. As a new bridge would take 15 years from the planning stage to completion, the time to start is now."

The CBI hopes that the conference will help to forge the various groups into a united front to press the Department of Transport.

Fears about the bridge were heightened by the leaking of a report by Mott Hay and Anderson, consulting engineers. It said the bridge could collapse in a very high wind.

The Government is assessing options for strengthening the bridge and peak traffic restrictions are still in force.

Criticisms of Navy challenged

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence is challenging the accuracy of criticisms of the way the Royal Navy handles large spending projects.

The comments originally appeared in *The Observer* newspaper on November 13 and were summarized in *The Times* last Monday. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, immediately called for a detailed examination of the criticisms.

He is believed to be considering what further action to take. The ministry's response is: "New underground operations control centre of the Navy at Northwood. The ministry says that there have been difficulties in bringing the project to fruition. And it has been delayed two years. But costs have risen to only £45m. A small increase in real terms."

Cost overruns on individual projects being cancelled. The ministry says that costs of projects are collated in their own right, and any escalation beyond fixed limits leads to the automatic reconsideration.

Withholding of possibly embarrassing files from auditors: the ministry says that staff are required to make all files available.

Doubts of the reliability of the new Sting Ray torpedo: the ministry says that it has entered service within the cost and time-scale forecast five years ago, and has exceeded the reliability rates demanded in the fixed price contract with Marconi.

Spent heavyweights torpedo: the ministry denies that £200m in research and development and other costs were suppressed. It says that cost comparisons considered by ministers included the cost of research and development and support for the Spearfish.

The ministry said yesterday that it would be looking very closely today at a report in *The Observer* yesterday that economic made to somers and electronic equipment for Trident submarines will make them more vulnerable to attack.

President Bourguiba of Tunisia, the octogenarian doyen of Africa's leaders, who has ruled his country for more than a quarter of a century with an iron hand, has announced extensive plans for the liberalization of his regime.

Two existing political "movements" will be officially recognized as political parties, a status hitherto confined to

President Bourguiba's Parti Socialiste Democratique (PSD) and the small Communist Party. Legislation, "organizing political and trade union life in the country on a multi-party basis, will be introduced in Parliament, where, as in the rest of Tunisia politics, the PSD has enjoyed a monopoly of power. This is not the first time President Bourguiba has made

Control of the economy is key to Polish reshuffle

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's Communist Party leadership has announced a high-level reshuffle which emphasizes the party's control over the economy and which attempts to paper over some of the ideological squabbles that have plagued the Communists.

The changes were disclosed on Saturday night after a two-day session of the policy-making Central Committee which was dedicated to discussing economic shortcomings in Poland and the chances of recovery. Some unusual frank comments - especially from workers' members of the Central Committee - were heard during the session, with one steel worker attacking the "lack of clarity" in the plan for 1984 and a Wroclaw worker "should serve society and not just the economists."

There appear to be three guiding ideas behind the reshuffle. The first was to appoint Mr Marion Orzechowski, a well-known ideological exponent, as the rector of a new Academy of Social Sciences and

make him a deputy member of the Politburo.

The academy merges two party institutions - the Higher Party School and the Institute for Study of Marxism-Leninism - which in the view of some analysts has become the platform for sipping between the moderate and hardline Communists.

Mr Orzechowski is a leading member of a group known as Pron, designed to cultivate dialogue between the party and non-party members, and as such is expected to steer a middle course.

Mr Tadeusz Forecki, a Politburo member and a professor of mechanical engineering, has been appointed to the powerful secretaryship of the Central Committee and is expected to take over some economic functions. Although Professor Forecki was once an adviser of the disgraced party leader, Mr Edward Gierek he is well regarded within the Politburo and he has now effectively entered the inner circle of party power.

Two other significant moves were made in the shake-up which many observers believe will be further complemented by changes in the Government this week - including the promotion of Mr Henryk Bednarski, First Party Secretary of Bydgoszcz, into the Central Committee and straight into its secretariat.

This is supposed to show that men of administrative talent can be speedily promoted within the party and is aimed, party sources say, at demonstrating that the Communist Party is not controlled by a closed circle.

The other principal change, the promotion of Mr Stanislaw Misiewicz, a former shipyard worker in the Szczecin shipyards into the Central Committee, brings into the ranks of the party leadership a former radical critic of the practices of the Politburo and one of the most zealous opponents of Mr Gierek after he had been overthrown.

Under the proposed law, no proprietor or group would be allowed to own newspapers. Sales aggregated sales amounted to more than 15 per cent of the total national sales for that type of newspaper. It would also be illegal to own both a national daily and a provincial daily.

Ownership of national newspapers would be limited to three, of which only one could be a daily. Only papers which devoted a third or more of their editorial space to political and general news coverage would be affected.

In order to ensure the "transparency" of ownership, every newspaper would be required to publish in each edition the name of the proprietor or proprietors and the titles of any other newspapers within the same ownership. The name of the editor and the size of circulation would also have to be given.

The newspaper's accounts would have to be published annually and no foreigner would be able to take over a French-language newspaper based in France.

The Government proposes to set up a commission of six members to ensure that the provisions of the new law are carried out in the interests of the "plurality" of the press.

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, insists that the Government is not introducing a new law, but rather bringing into force principles introduced in legislation already passed in 1944 which have never been applied. The 1944 Order on the press incorporated the principle of "one man, one paper."

The Opposition has accused the Government of trying to stifle freedom of expression in the press, pointing out that the Government already has a monopoly of control over radio and television.

Mr Raymond Barre, the former Prime Minister, said that the Government's bid to control the press was the latest example of the Socialist attempt to "transform a pluralist society into a uniform society subjected to dogmatism, indoctrination and intolerance."

The Association of Newspaper Proprietors has protested strongly against both the content of the Bill and the Government's failure to enter into any prior consultations. Many small proprietors would prefer M Hersant's money to government control or bankruptcy. The journalists, for the most part, have welcomed the proposals.

Welsh soldier freed from Malta ordeal

A Welsh soldier injured his first day of freedom yesterday after seven months in a Maltese jail.

Mr Anthony Price, aged 21, reunited with his parents in Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, had been accused of being involved in a bizarre plot to shoot Mr Don Mintoff, the Prime Minister.

Private Price, who deserted from the Royal Regiment of Wales in West Germany last March, protested his innocence but was held in Vellella prison while the Maltese authorities continued their inquiries.

Mr Edward Rowlands, Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney, and a former Foreign Office minister, raised his case in the Commons because of concern for the soldier's position over the lack of evidence.

Private Price, freed after a special court hearing on Friday, arrived in Britain on Saturday and was immediately detained

by the Army for two hours at Heathrow airport.

He was allowed to spend the rest of the weekend with his family on condition that he reports today to Crickhowell barracks.

Private Price, who lost more than two stone in jail, said: "It's great to be back home, a tremendous relief". He declined to comment in detail about his experiences.

His father, Ron, who led a campaign for the release of his son, praised the British authorities for their efforts behind the scenes. "I also wrote to Don Mintoff, appealing as a father for his help and I believe this might have affected the situation. It's the end of a nightmare for us."

The worrying and uncertainty about Tony was affecting my wife's health. He wants to stay in the Army and finish his time. We hope they will show compassion after what he has been through in Malta."

First poll test for Italian left

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian Government, troubled by internal divisions accentuated by the unhappy meeting with the French in Venice last week, awaits with anxiety the results of the regional and local elections held at the weekend.

The elections involving about 1,800,000 electors are concentrated in the Trentino-Alto Adige region and a series of municipal contests led by the principal southern cities of Naples and Reggio Calabria.

These contests represent the first electoral test since the present government came to power last June.

For the Christian Democrats, still the country's largest party, the Naples elections in particular may show whether the party's setback at the general election was temporary or a sign of a more general malaise.

The renewed "dash for democracy" has probably been inspired by Mrs Bourguiba, a lively and outspoken woman, who remains a powerful influence behind the throne.

moves to liberalize his regime. In 1981, he allowed the two "movements" - now political parties - to participate in parliamentary elections.

This is not the first time President Bourguiba has made

Furore in France over press reforms

From Diana Goldstein, Paris

The French Government's decision to bring in tough anti-trust legislation to limit the rise and power of press conglomerates has caused a furore. The Opposition has been quick to seize on the issue as another example of the Government's alleged assault on individual liberties.

Much of the uproar has been caused by the fact that the proposed new law is aimed primarily at M Robert Hersant, France's most powerful press baron and a fierce opponent of the left.

His empire includes three national newspapers - *Le Figaro*, *France Soir* and *L'Express* - and 10 provincial dailies which together account for 20 per cent of daily newspaper sales. He also owns several specialist magazines.

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Royal launch for 'picturephone'

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Princess Anne will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of automatic telephone dialling in Britain today by phoning the Lord Provost of Edinburgh from Bristol, just as her mother did a quarter of a century ago when she inaugurated the service.

However, today's call will be made with a "picturephone", a video and telephone link married together. This is expected to become a commonplace in the next 20 years as automatic dialling is at present.

The system of dialling inaugurated by the Queen on December 5, 1958, called subscriber trunk dialling (STD), has developed to the extent that of the 10 million trunk calls made every day, 99 per cent use the automatic system.

The first codes used a mixture of numbers and letters but by 1966 a new system allowed the letters to be dropped.

Within five years of its inauguration, in 1963, automatic dialling was introduced for international telephone calls between London and Paris. Transatlantic direct dialling between London and New York started seven years later in 1970, and by 1975 26

countries were on the network. Now the 30 million telephones in Britain have direct access to 135 countries and more than 500 million telephones around the world.

Bristol has always played an important part in British telecommunications. The first West Country exchange was

opened there in 1879 with 15 subscribers.

In November that year, the magazine *The Electrician* carried a story that read: "The use of the telephone is expanding rapidly. The instruments have been introduced at Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace."



The Queen inaugurating direct dialling in 1958 with Mr Ernest Marples, the then Postmaster-General.

Korchnoi's complaint. Is there a remedy?



VIKTOR KORCHNOI
AGE 52.

ZOLTAN RIBLI
AGE 32.

GARRY KASPAROV
AGE 20.

VASSILY SMYSLOV
AGE 62.

There is a major source of irritation in Viktor Korchnoi's life.

He has twice suffered defeat at the hands of Anatoly Karpov, failing to seize the World Chess Champion's crown.

To have any hope of remedying his grievance, Mr. Korchnoi must first get through the World Chess Championship Semi-Finals, starting today at London's Great Eastern Hotel.

(It's Britain's most important chess tournament since the first World Championship was held here in 1851.)

Korchnoi is lined up for twelve nerve-racking games against the prodigiously gifted Garry Kasparov.

Meanwhile, the tension will also be mounting steadily between the veteran Vassily Smyslov and the formidable Zoltan Ribli.

The brains behind these battles of the mental giants are Acorn, manufacturers of the

BBC Microcomputer. Away from its increasing educational, domestic and business commitments, the BBC Micro is a particularly keen chess player.

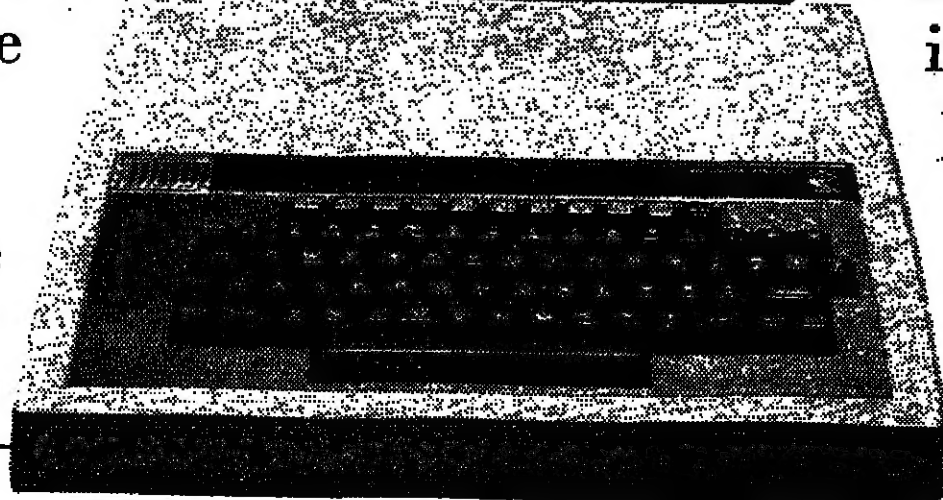
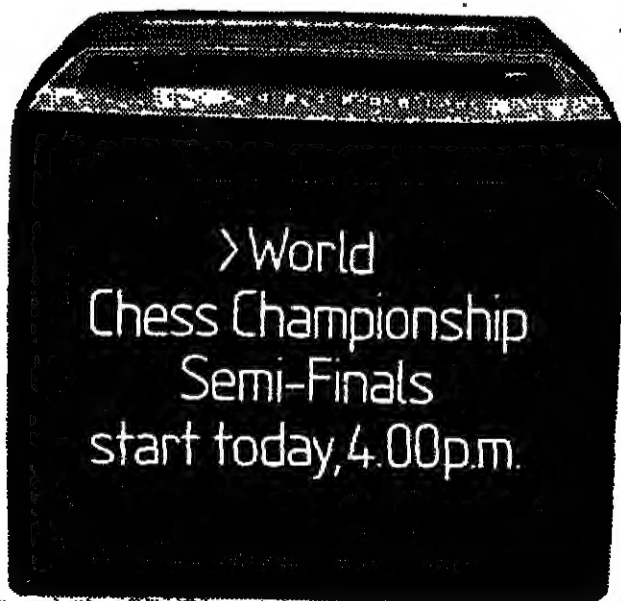
In fact, its interest in the game is such that it has computed each grandmaster's likelihood of getting through to next year's Final.

It reckons Mr. Kasparov's probability to be no less than 89%.

Mr. Ribli's probability is 60%, while Mr. Smyslov's is 40%.

Alas, the precocious £399 micro claims that Mr. Korchnoi's probability of pulling through is a slender 11%.

In the stark face of adversity, however, he should certainly be inspired to give a performance which leaves no room for complaint.



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US-Soviet tensions over arms and technology

Schmidt fails to prevent SPD from voting against missiles

From Michael Binyan, Bonn

In a momentous vote that will have far-reaching consequences for German politics and for the country's relations with its Nato allies, the opposition Social Democratic Party (SPD) has, overwhelmingly, rejected at the weekend the deployment of new Nato missiles on German soil.

After two days of impassioned debate at a special congress in Cologne and despite a powerful appeal from Herr Helmut Schmidt, the former Chancellor, not to go back on their word, 400 of the delegates voted against deployment, with only 14 people, including Herr Schmidt and several former Ministers, defying the party executive's recommendation.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the parliamentary leader, said the 1979 Nato decision had not been respected by the Americans, who had not kept their promise to negotiate seriously at the Geneva arms talks.

He said the Americans had ignored their European allies' desire for greater efforts at Geneva. For this Chancellor Kohl was in large measure to blame as he had not attempted to force Washington and Moscow to compromise.

Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, also clearly blamed the Americans and the "stubbornness" of those who thought the deployment of Pershing 2s

more important than the removal of SS20s. The SPD vote corresponded to the call by the House of Representatives for a nuclear freeze. The new missiles were against the interests of Europe and both German states, he declared with passion, to warm applause.

The party leaders recognize they cannot stop the missiles arriving or defeat the Government in the vital Bundestag debate on deployment that begins today. Indeed, the party gave no commitment to remove the missiles if returned to power, and reaffirmed its loyalty to Nato.



Marshall Ustinov: Reiterated opposition to deployment.

But strong anti-Nato and anti-American feelings ran high, and the rejection of Herr Schmidt's appeal, and his arguments could not have been plainer.

Herr Schmidt's speech must rank as one of the finest of his career, ranging widely over his long period of office and sparing

neither the Americans, Russians, the present Bonn Government nor the fickleness of his party. He warned his party against isolating itself and of damaging German credibility with its allies by going back on its word.

● Bomb defused: An unexploded bomb was defused in front of an American company in Düsseldorf and another bomb damaged state police headquarters yesterday on the eve of a Bonn parliamentary debate on deployment of new US missiles in West Germany (AP reports).

President Andropov wrote a new letter to Chancellor Kohl, a Chancellery spokesman said yesterday. He declined to give details, but one report said the Soviet leader had said Bonn must be prepared to "take the consequences" if new US missiles were stationed in West Germany.

● MOSCOW: Soviet officials say Western leaders and commentators "deceived themselves" into thinking the Soviet Union might make last minute concessions at the Geneva arms talks when in fact it had never intended to do so (Richard Owen writes).

Officials said there was no "split in the Kremlin" on arms control, as the Bonn Government had suggested, and said West German officials had "misread" the signs of a wishful thinking.

Last week Dr Kohl said he understood Moscow had softened its stand over the inclusion of British and French missiles in the INF (intermedi-

ate range) talks. But Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, said in *Pravda* on Saturday categorically that British and French missiles must be included in the Geneva talks. An reiterated Moscow's outright opposition to the deployment of cruise and Pershing.

Tass said Dr Kohl had "commented most sensationally about some mysterious 'signals' from Moscow."

The news agency added that there had been no such signals and would not be in the future.

The Russians have been gratified by the SPD vote against the Nato deployments, but are closely watching today's Bundestag debate and have little hope that Bonn's support for the deployments will be undermined.

WASHINGTON: The Central Intelligence Agency in a report to Congress has indicated that the cost of Soviet defence spending has grown more slowly since 1976 than in previous years. (Mohsin Ali writes).

The CIA in a new analysis of the Soviet economy, given to Congress on September 20, cut its previous estimate of the Soviet defence growth by more than half.

The report, released by Senator William Froxmire, a Democrat from Missouri on Friday, showed that Moscow continued to increase military outlays until 1976 by 4 to 5 per cent annually.

In perfect Alliance, page 10

America watches the holocaust

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Americans gathered round their television sets last night to watch a programme which has caused unprecedented ferment before even being screened.

The *Day After*, the ABC television dramatization of a nuclear strike on Kansas City is the most horrific documentary to be aired in the United States and is said to portray the appalling consequences of nuclear war in even more terrifying detail than the 1965 BBC production, *The War Game*, which was banned from British television.

The White House, concerned that the film would give new impetus to the nuclear freeze movement and undercut its own efforts to modernize American nuclear defences, has mounted a counter-offensive.

The Administration requested that ABC agreed that Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, be interviewed about US nuclear policy immediately after the programme. Other officials will also appear on talk shows and

write newspaper articles, stating the Administration's case.

The White House confirmed that President Reagan had a private viewing of *The Day After* a few days ago. The spokesman declined to say Mr Reagan had reacted to it, but said he welcomed the dialogue it would provoke.

Thousands of Republican and conservative organizations across the country will hold meetings and teach-ins to counter the many thousands more planned by anti-nuclear groups. The programme depicts, in gruesome detail, the annihilation of Kansas City as a result of a nuclear strike and the horrors faced by survivors in Lawrence, a town 38 miles away.

ABC says the film is a non-political presentation of what a nuclear war would be like and hopes it will promote discussion about the nuclear arms race. To the company's credit, it has resisted political and commercial pressures to stop the screening.

S African link in computer smuggling

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

General Johann Coetzee, the Commissioner of Police, has announced that a joint team of South African and American investigators will begin a full-scale inquiry in Cape Town today into allegations that the country is a key link in the smuggling of advanced Western technology to the Soviet Union.

American computers seized by West German officials on board a cargo ship in Hamburg are believed to have been shipped last month from South Africa with the Soviet Union as ultimate destination. The computers are said to be

capable of controlling nuclear missiles and to be of the same type as those used by the Pentagon.

Under US law, all applicants for export licences for computers going to South Africa have to be vetted by the Department of Commerce to ensure that the user is not Armscor, the state armaments producer, or the South African military or police.

The investigation here will centre on a German millionaire, Herr Richard Müller, who is believed to be now in Australia. He is alleged to have been the

link man in the import of computers into South Africa.

Herr Müller, wanted for questioning in three continents, came to South Africa in 1980 and was allowed to stay despite first, the rare union of opposition from the East and West.

The immediate aim of the investigation, General Coetzee said at the weekend, would be "to establish which companies are involved and where Müller got the money from to buy the lavish Cape Town properties he now owns."

French reprisal raid leaves militia targets unscathed

From Robert Fisk, Baalbek

Despite claims by the French Defence Ministry that its aircraft bombed a "terrorist" objective inside a barracks at Baalbek last Thursday, the Super-Éclairage jets appear to have totally missed their stated targets, firing most of their rockets into a vineyard not far from a small Christian village behind the city.

The Shaikh Abdullah barracks - a sprawling Lebanese Army compound of residential housing, a command centre and radio antennae

captured by Iranian Revolutionary Guards earlier this year - was described by France as its objective, but the buildings inside the barracks show no obvious sign of damage.

A few rockets did hit inside the compound, now renamed the Imam Ali Barracks by the Iranians, but all appear to have exploded on a series of small hills near the parade ground.

Black and green flags hung from the barracks gates yesterday while banners were strung round the walls proclaiming in Arabic: "All the damage of the

world comes from Israel, America and Russia."

Nor does the Khawarnaq Hotel, the former two-storey tourist centre that houses a military headquarters of Hussain bin Ali, Islamic Amal movement, show the slightest sign of damage, though reports last week insisted it had been devastated by rocket-firing French jets.

The only obvious - though slight - sign of physical damage was the burning of the Hotel, which lies immediately below the barracks and about 600 yards from the ancient

temples of Baalbek. A piece of shrapnel from the French bombs had smashed through the roof and landed in Room 42 of the hotel, which now serves as local headquarters for the International Red Cross.

An eye-witness to the French raid described how the French jets came in at low level, just over the ruins of the Roman Temple of Jupiter.

"I saw the first two planes fly right over the temples and the only sign of violence was a crumbling old building damaged back in 1976 during the Lebanese civil war."

A few exploded in the barracks, but the rest went over the hill and missed. I think the French wanted to warn the people here this time, to say 'Look what we could do next time'."

Revolutionary Guards could be seen patrolling yesterday outside their headquarters south of Baalbek, but there was no undue sign of concern.

I drove slowly round the outside walls of the barracks and the only sign of violence was a crumbling old building damaged back in 1976 during the Lebanese civil war.

Turkish north's UDI could break Cyprus logjam

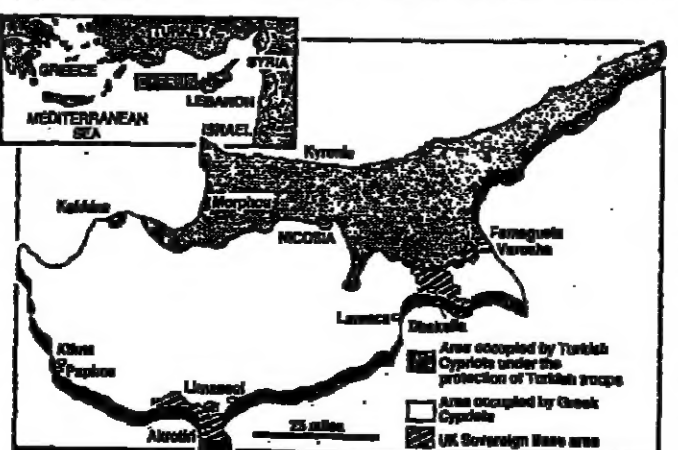
From Mario Modiano, Nicosia

As ruffled nationalist feelings in Cyprus subside with time and reason, the unilateral declaration of independence by the self-segregated Turkish minority could turn out a blessing in disguise.

Universally condemned but a political reality, the UDI broke in less than a week the protracted stalemate in a 20-year-old dispute by stimulating an urgent search for a solution.

A double effect can be expected from the shake-up: first, the rare union of opposition from the East and West has shown Turkish Cypriots there is a limit to their defiance; second, bringing the Greek Cypriots face to face with partition may induce them to accept alternatives rather than pamper their pride.

United Nations experts see a possible breakthrough in reviv-



ing the "step pyramid" proposal canvassed discreetly a year ago, but rejected by the Greeks on the ground that it contained the seeds of partition.

Now that partition is practically here, the Greek side will be goaded to take a fresh look at it, especially since it includes a

limited central authority at first. This would be broadened progressively as agreement is reached by mixed commissions on other fields of government activity.

A key feature of the first step would be withdrawal of military forces from the dividing line to create a 25-mile-wide demilitarized zone (roughly occupying a third of the island) under the exclusive military, but not administrative, control of the United Nations force. Substantial territorial adjustments would be made between the two provinces.

The Federal President would be Greek Cypriot and the Vice-President Turkish Cypriot, while the legislature would include a parliament elected proportionately and a Senate divided on an equal basis.

Five years later, the legislature would be asked to start implementing the plan's final phase, providing for complete

demilitarization and a more tightly knit federal structure.

● ANKARA: Turkey will continue to back Turkish Cypriots, UDI despite the UN Security Council resolution expressing opposition, Ankara made clear on Saturday (Rasit Gurdil writes).

The Security Council resolution, drafted by Britain, called in the Turkish Cypriots to withdraw their declaration of independence and instructed all countries to withhold recognition.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman said the UDI had enabled the Turkish Cypriots to present their case to the world more strongly.

The Security Council resolution, passed with 13 votes with only Pakistan opposing and Jordan abstaining, was also rejected on Saturday by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

Letters, page 11



Anniversary smile: The garlanded Queen, leaving Holy Trinity church, Secunderabad, yesterday, on her thirty-sixth wedding anniversary.

Roar of disapproval for Duke

From Michael Hamlyn, Kanha, Madhya Pradesh

It is the mating season at Kanha National Park and a pair of tigers were not pleased early yesterday morning to see the Duke of Edinburgh peering at them from the back of an elephant.

They showed their displeasure by snarling and walking briskly up and down in a jungle clearing.

The Duke was in no danger, however. Tigers regard people on the back of an elephant a part of the animal and they would hesitate to attack an elephant.

The early morning was cold and misty and the Duke turned and went off to look for more tigers.

The elephant, Vandevi, or Forest Goddess, prodded and kicked by her mahout, lumbered back through the undergrowth to a convoy of Jeeps.

Then they tore along a dusty forest trail while the sun rose higher and skimmed off the mist rising from ponds and lakes. They found a tigress and one of her young, lying indolently in a bamboo clump.

As the visiting elephants circled their lair the tigers looked up with vague disinterest. They had no fear of the pachyderms. Gone are the days when the local maharaja could shoot 1,200 tigers

in a short lifetime and practically wipe them out in that area.

These tigers live in a preserve sponsored in part by the World Wildlife Fund, of which the Duke is the international president. In the 350 square miles of the Kanha reserve, which is celebrating its fiftieth jubilee this year, there are 26,000 deer, antelope, bear and buffalo.

The park has also had another big conservation success. Under its tall ash trees shelter the magnificent *Bharadwaj* deer. The name is Hindi for 12 horns and the number of times on their antlers varies between six and 14.

In 1970 there were only 66 *Bharadwaj* in the world, all at Kanha. Today there are 464 and they are no longer on the verge of extinction.

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MPs change tune on constitution

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

The anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP), the official opposition in South Africa, has decided to take part in the new constitutional system which it urged its supporters to reject at the whites-only referendum on November 2. The constitution is likely to come into force in the second half of next year.

About 66 per cent of those who voted in the referendum including possibly a third of the PFP's traditional supporters, supported the new constitution, which would extend parliamentary rights to the mixed-race Coloured and Indian minorities, but still exclude the black-African majority.

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Nine die as flooding brings chaos to Lisbon

Lisbon - Floodwaters cut Lisbon off from the rest of Portugal over the weekend and caused severe damage in suburbs and towns within a 22-mile radius (Martha de la Cal writes). Nine people died and 11 more are missing. More than 1,000 were left homeless.

Torrential rain late on Saturday turned steep streets built on old watercourses into raging torrents, carrying cars and buses into rivers leading to the coast. The water cut deep canyons in streets, making them impassable.

International and suburban trains stopped, running just highways into the city were under water. Several bridges collapsed, leaving towns isolated. Much of Lisbon and many of the small towns were without drinking water and telephones.

Underground stations were submerged. The damage was greatest, however, in the poorer suburbs where several hundred thousand people live in illegally constructed buildings and wooden shacks without proper drainage. A great number of the badly built structures were washed away.

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British re to sell Chile alarms

From Nicholas Ashford

Administration reports that the sale of the Chilean military Government.

United States fears that sophisticated military equipment to General Pinochet's regime.

Pinchey's regime is an attempt by the United States to prevent the Chilean military Government from taking office.

It is feared that the Chilean military Government will make it difficult for the United States to build up its military presence in the Chilean military Government.

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DAIEM & Company 200425/U

SPECTRUM

Curiosity and an acute observation of life have driven Muriel Spark to become one of our great novelists. Nicholas Shakespeare discovers that this curiosity once led her in a different direction, when, during the war, she was recruited by British Intelligence to work in a subversive "German" radio station

Suffering and the vital Spark

Muriel Spark was once asked by a friend what stopped them both from committing suicide like so many people they knew. "Curiosity," she replied. "We want to know what happens next." At 65 this quality shows no sign of deserting one of our greatest living novelists - one who grows more distinguished with her omission from each succeeding list of the Book Marketing Council.

She was in London last week to record a rare television interview having just completed a new novel. Fresh off the cross-Channel ferry after driving from her home in Italy, where she has lived since 1966, she was full of an incident at sea. A small, bird-like Scot, she has something of the sparrow in her movement and expression; something, sometimes, of the hawk.

"A message came over the intercom for the purser to meet a man from Special Branch. Of course, I was there before anyone else. I'm not a reporter, but I'm nosy. I wouldn't like not to know." The case for disturbance was "a very jolly black man who was later released." She shrugged, bit the end of her spectacles and smiled. "Obviously drunk."

Some 40 years ago, fresh off a troopship from Africa, where her marriage had gone sour, Muriel Spark was recruited for her inquiring mind by British Intelligence and sent to Woburn Abbey. "We were supposed to be a German radio station, broadcasting subversive material to their troops. We worked with German prisoners who had ratted - communists, aristocrats and boys who just wanted better rations. I used to take them for walks

and they would teach me German. The first word they made me learn was 'erotic'."

"Anyway, they were broadcasting for us as loyal Germans, telling how Britain was having to employ Italian interpreters because so many Italians had been captured on the Western Front. It was absolute nonsense. We were nowhere near the Western Front." Another report revealed how Hitler had had his pants burned off in the bomb attempt on his life. "It fascinated me because it's very much the way one writes novels. A bit of fact. A bit of truth."

Strangely enough, her career as a writer began with an article after the war for the jewelry magazine *Argenteor*. "I was fascinated by the decorations in Renaissance paintings and did a feature on the Order of the Golden Fleece. Incredibly, the *Evening Standard* picked it up. Opening the paper one day I saw an article saying how good my piece was and I said maybe I can write." Her first full-length book was a study of Mary Shelley in 1951. "I was interested in Frankenstein, and it was the anniversary of her death. Now I think she's terribly dreary. I can identify more with the writer than the writer's widow."

Not until 1957, three years after becoming a Roman Catholic, did she publish her first novel. "At first I drew the line at novels. I felt they were a lazy way of writing poetry. Then Macmillan asked me if I would do one and Graham Greene gave me the money to do it." The result was *The Comforters*, named after "the comforters" in the Book of Job.

Sixteen novels later, Muriel Spark continues to think of herself as "a



Muriel Spark: I'm nosy. I wouldn't like not to know

going concern." She feels the world is newly created every day; each day she looks at it in the same dry-eyed way. "I have a great desire to make people smile - not laugh, but smile. Laughter is too aggressive. People bare their teeth." In 26 years her method of writing, like what she writes about, has changed little. "I get sent exercise books by the gross from a place in Edinburgh, just like I had as a schoolgirl - with 72 pages and a spring spine."

"I wait until I have a kind of caterpillar curled up in my mind. I write the title, my name and Chapter One. Then I start. I like to have the title, which I repeat through the book like a refrain. The rest I make up as I go along." Did the "caterpillar" curl around a character or a theme?

"Mainly a theme. If a character, it must be someone indomitable who will not change whatever circumstances you put in their way. It has to be a person of sufficient importance so one cares about their tragedy. Art is not so democratic. One really doesn't care about people who haven't enough magnitude - by that I mean spiritual magnitude."

How much were her characters drawn from herself? "Flaubert said: 'Madame Bovary, c'est moi.' I know what he means. It's a potentiality rather than oneself one recognizes in them, but they have to be a bit of you or you wouldn't know what you were talking about." Did she have a favourite novel? "The one I've just finished. It's called *The Only Problem*. To my mind it's my most important."

I'd be quite happy if it was the last book I lived to write."

The Only Problem, published next year, is a modern sexual and theological comedy which asks how a benevolent creator can permit the unspeakable suffering of this world. Set in France, it centres on a rich Canadian who is writing a monograph on the Book of Job, and his beautiful, unpredictable wife who leaves him over the theft of some chocolates. "The Only Problem" is suffering. Life would be very dull without suffering. Life is suffering. The novel completes a fascination with the Book of Job which dates from the early 1950s when she attempted a treatise on the subject. "I don't know how it got into the Bible because God comes out so badly."

Her own position in the Catholic Church is similarly unorthodox. "The

'The church is less important than faith... I'm anticlerical'

Church is less important than faith", she emphasises. "It's a kind of bank that keeps the faith from one generation to another. I hate sermons - all our questions to God are absolutely ridiculous, so how can we expect answers. I'm also very anticlerical." It is a dislike compounded by her experience on the International Commission of English in the Liturgy.

"We're a group of writers who are consulted on the Liturgy's translation into English. We're there as stooges to soothe the conscience of priests. I think they'll take no notice whatever of my objection to prayers that tell God what he's like. Oh God, thou art merciful - as if God didn't know."

Muriel Spark describes her religion as "a condition, a sort of brainwashing". Her conversion - "to join the main branch" - was, typically, an intellectual one. "My mother's criticism of me was that my head ruled my heart." Had her heart suffered as a result? "I have a calling. Writing is a thing I have to do. Not many men will suffer for that and people do come before books, so it's best not to have people in your life. I'm willing to subordinate an enormous amount for my work. They say sacrifice, but to sacrifice for a pleasure makes it more pleasurable. If you took away the writer from me, I believe I would not exist at all."

Is her contentment then to lay down the pen with her latest novel not a form of suicide? She smiles once more. A spectacle and returns to her mouth. "I don't know, I might be quite wrong. In fact I've already thought of a title for the next one."

Muriel Spark is interviewed by Frank Delaney on BBC2 tonight at 10.15.

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: Island ecology

Dwindling heritage

"The islands of the Pacific and East Indies made an enormous and fateful impact on the minds of Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace, the fathers of evolutionary theory". M. L. Gorman of the University of Aberdeen wrote several years ago. "Since then island floras and faunas have continued to play a central role in the development of evolutionary and, more recently, ecological thought."

Quite apart from the fascination of the islands themselves, the study of island ecology acquires a certain urgency as man's progressive destruction of habitats increases the need for natural reserves, which by definition can only exist as "islands in an inhospitable sea of man-modified vegetation or urban sprawl".

Biologists over the years have inevitably changed the emphasis of their speciality from descriptive to predictive, with obvious implications for reserve management for non-specialists, however, it seems likely that the romance of the islands and the geo-whizzery surrounding the island species will continue to be of paramount interest.

'Vampire' birds

Surely one of the most bizarre adaptations ever recorded on an island (or anywhere else) is the behaviour of the "vampire finches" of Wolf Island, about 80 miles north-west of the main Galapagos group. Although the apparently unique blood-drinking habits of the sharp-beaked ground finch *Geospiza difficilis septentrionalis* had been known since 1964, until last November its activities had never been filmed.

An account of a 12-day filming expedition to the island appears in the current issue of *Noticias de Galapagos*, journal of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos Isles. Friedemann and Heide Köster found their first "vampires" at work on the third day: "Riding on the lower back of a booby and clinging to the large flight feathers of its folded wings, the finch repeatedly buries its beak deep into the formerly white feathers of the 'elbow', now distinctly marked red by extruding blood. Watching from within a couple of yards, we can clearly see the blood being sucked into the closed beak of the finch as if through a drinking straw."

The finches, the authors discovered later, were also adept at stealing and eating the eggs of other species, working in teams to push the egg away from the nest. Once the egg had broken, however, the team spirit would collapse in a "feeding frenzy".

The authors were surprised that most of the boobies did not react more vigorously against the finches, although when larger

chicks were attacked it was "saddening to see how these comparatively large birds try to get rid of their tormentors by desperately walking backwards and forwards across the nesting area, relentlessly followed by a group of sharp-billed finches pecking at their bloody tails."

Courting pairs in particular, they noted, seemed all but oblivious to "the vampires" riding on their backs, pecking and drawing blood from the feather quills. Love conquers all, even in an evolutionary crucible.

Survival lottery

Sometimes it is the sheerest coincidence that determines whether islands, and the creatures unique to them, survive. Aldabra, most distant island of the Seychelles and famed for its giant tortoises, is a perfect example. It is one of the largest elevated atolls in the world, but is unique in its lack of phosphorous deposits.

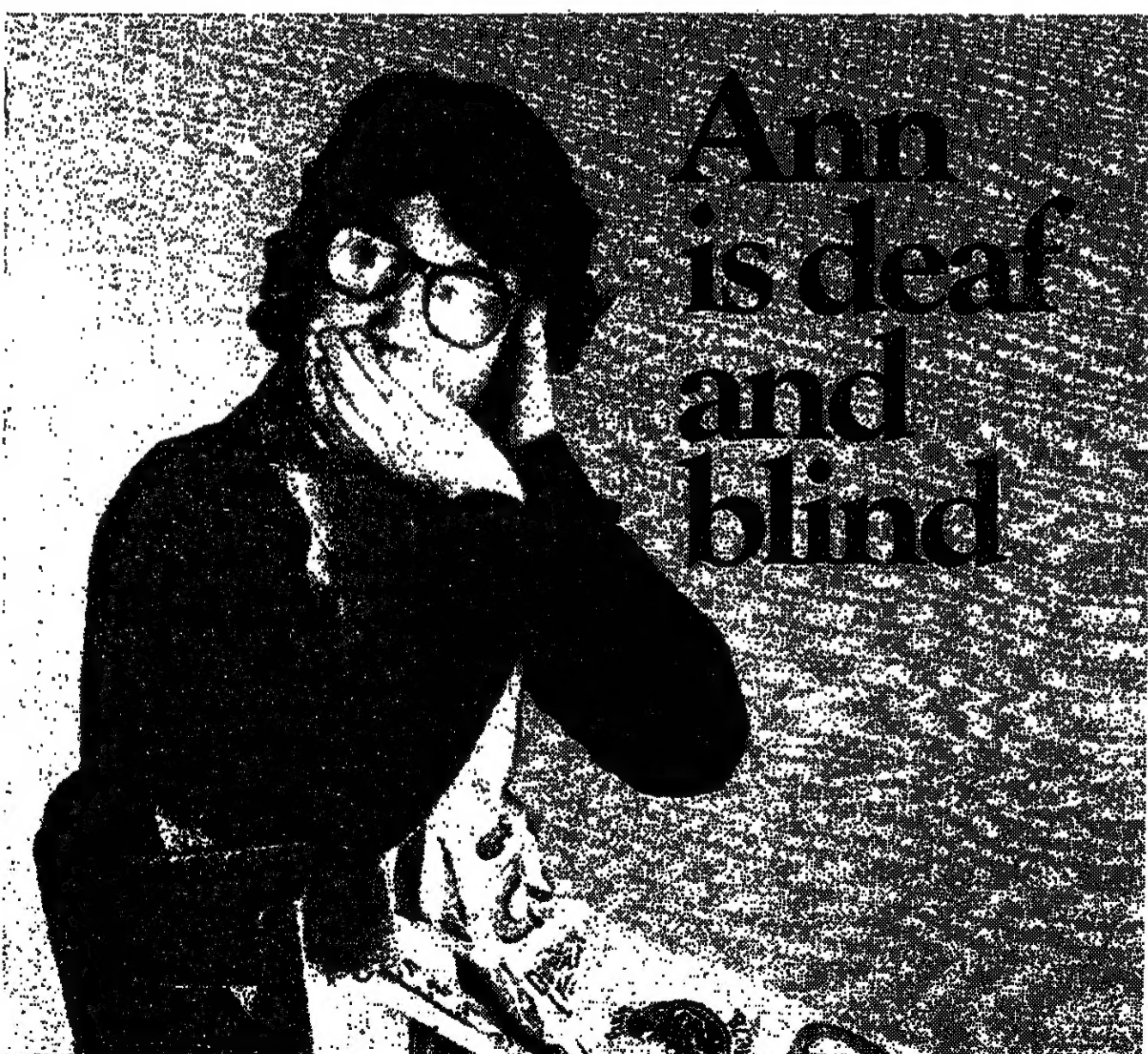
In a recent issue of *AMBIO*, published by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Dr David Stoddart and Savy note that Aldabra has been spared the mining industries that have disfigured the nearby islands of Nauru, Banaba and Makatea because most of its vast colonies of seabirds nest in unusual concentrations of mangroves around the lagoon margins, so that their guano is flushed away by the sea.

Culling overkill

Australia, an island the size of a continent, is naturally a paradise for any island ecologist. Of its most famous marsupials, the kangaroo and wallaby, there are 57 species throughout Oceania. The red, eastern grey and western grey kangaroos are the subjects of controversy at the moment because confusion over culling policies has raised fears of "a free-for-all overkill", in the words of the World Wildlife Fund.

Aerial surveys are in progress in an attempt to compile more reliable population data; in the meantime, "cases of inhumane killing methods have been reported and bitterly criticized. The state organizations involved are not insensitive to the humane issues but must also take account of the principle of sustainable utilization of markable wildlife, a principle endorsed by the World Conservation Strategy". WWF notes, Kangaroo meat and hides and other products are big business and exports, particularly to the United States, are thriving.

Tony Samstag



The RNID cares for her and others similarly handicapped in their new Deaf/Blind centre in Bath. The whole of her life will require constant loving care and supervision but this costs a lot of money.

The RNID also promotes medical research and provides extensive scientific, technical, educational, welfare and information services. Please help us all you can.

RNID. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Please send what you can afford to RNID, Room DB, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. For details telephone 01-387 8033.

moreover...
Miles Kington

Putting his stamp on history

People who have very important jobs indeed

No 15: A man who fixes postage stamps for new countries

Most observers were taken by surprise when the Turkish half of Cyprus suddenly declared independence, not so Sterling Gubbins, the postage stamp man, who had been out there for six days in advance.

"You sort of get a nose for these things after a while", he says. "I can smell a new, emerging country up to three months in advance of most people, and I slip out there to get in touch with the new government. Often they don't realize just how important stamps are. These newly created countries are usually obsessed with getting their own nuclear deterrent or joining the EEC, when their first priority should always be getting a decent set of stamps out. Partly so they can write to each other, but mostly to get some cash. Stamps are a big earner from day one."

New governments are often very good at making subjective decisions or living rough in the bush, but have very little experience of designing and issuing a set of stamps. That's where Gubbins comes in. He can tell them what colours to use, what sort of pictures to put on the front and how to put perforated holes in sheets of paper, also the name of a quick and cheap printer in SE14.

"You'd be surprised how many of them only want to put their own pictures on stamps, and it takes a while to persuade them that a portrait series of scruffy Castro lookalikes coming out of the bush isn't going to sell to the postmen. This lot in north Cyprus are brighter than average, though - after all, they've already been running the place for quite a while - and I've persuaded them to go in for a lucrative anniversary issue."

Anniversary issues are big money in the stamp world, especially as you are not restricted to events in your own country. It's quite common to find small islands in the Pacific commemorating something like Kipling's birth, or the invention of the pressure cooker.

"I tried to persuade the Turks to do an issue on Dylan Thomas's thirtieth anniversary, but they reckoned that Radio 4 had already done it to death. Besides, they had a look at his poetry and couldn't make head or tail of it, and between you and me I'm not surprised. Anyway, we were in a bit of an impasse situation until it turned out that half the new cabinet were jazz fans, so now we're doing a set of Django Reinhardt stamps, as he died just over 30 years ago. It's going to look very nice, I think, especially as some of the stamps have got the young Stéphane Grappelli on, and his albums still sell very well."

Printing has been held up because no final decision has been taken on what the new country should be called. Sterling Gubbins firmly squashed a proposal to call it Sitcom, which is apparently a local dialect word for freedom. It's for advice like that that his presence is so widely valued.

"Sometimes when the people are very inexperienced they get me in on everything. I went out to one of these African countries not so long ago just to do the stamps and ended up being offered the post of foreign secretary. Very nice, but of course I had to refuse, as you've got to remain impartial in the stamp world. I believe the post went eventually to a bloke who had only come out to help them to get into the World Cup. Half the time they don't go independent in order to get into the World Cup anyway. That and the Miss World Contest and the Eurovision Song Contest, if they're near enough to Europe."

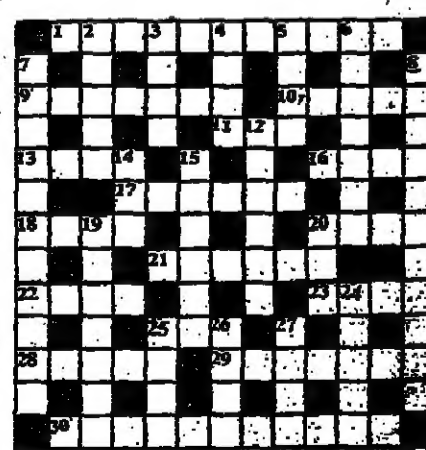
And which bit of the world is going independent next?

"That would be telling, wouldn't it? Let's just say it's not a million miles from the bit of Afghanistan that Russia can't reach. Meanwhile, I'm hoping to land the big Hongkong contract."

Meaning?

"The big closing down, everything-must-go issue, old boy."

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 207)



ACROSS

- 1 Cartoon cat and mouse (3,3,5)
- 9 Greenland inhabitants (7)
- 10 Avid (5)
- 11 Go brown (3)
- 13 Pavement edge (4)
- 14 Girl friend (4)
- 17 Prisoner (6)
- 18 Failed to win (4)
- 20 Fake (4)
- 21 Ill-tempered woman (6)
- 22 Rigid circular band (4)
- 23 Benefit (4)
- 25 Prepare (3)
- 26 Black African (5)
- 29 Illness (7)
- 30 Roughcast (11)

DOWN

- 2 Uncultivated Australian (5)
- 3 Summit (4)
- 4 Perform (4)
- 5 Churchill's Favourite Secretary (5)
- 6 Mischievous (7)
- 7 Base above (11)
- 8 Prevalent (11)
- 12 Real (6)
- 14 Small piece (3)
- 15 Referee (6)
- 16 Temporary substitute (7)
- 19 Weep (3)
- 20 Fortunes (5)
- 25 Not hard (4)
- 26 Molek (4)
- 27 Walk heavily (4)

Solution to Saturday's prize concise will appear on Saturday. Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

The enthronement of an Archbishop of York is an occasion of consequence in the Church of England. As Dr John Habgood said in his sermon it is a great act of worship. It expresses in words and ritual - and not least (by no means least) in music - something of the glory of God. It is a celebration. Indeed all the panoply and procedure of the affair, signified to some extent by the presence in the congregation of the Prime Minister, and by the all embracing antiquity and beauty of York Minster, in which the service was held, testify to the centrality of Anglicanism in the culture and history of England.

Dr Habgood said that it is a reassertion of public faith. Public faith according to the new Archbishop, is about the foundations. That is a questionable emphasis to lay at the start of his Archbishopric. In a moment the believer is in a numbers game - of which some Christian denominations are much guiltier than others - in which religious affiliation is validated simply by the fact that so many others seem to be of the same persuasion, as though one's inner experience needs outward corroboration.

Public faith? Can that really have been the key message of the new Archbishop? It is true he went on to disavow any intention of a "mere puffing up of Christian self-importance." There must be no triumphalism, for sure. And yet. And yet. What can public faith be other than an expression of faith in our institutions, in the cohesion of a society bound by a common tradition and some continuity in its sense of values? In fact, can it be more than an essentially collective emotion in which individuals, be they members of the congregation, sidesmen, choristers or mere onlookers, listeners, and fellow celebrants, in the great wide Anglican communion, are swept up in a seductive ritual and public act of devotion which in all truth cannot be presented as the sure foundation of any kind of true religious faith?

"We don't want just to be individuals. We want to belong to a society which helps us to be what, at our deepest and best, we know we ought to be," said Dr Habgood. Society, in other words, is to be Dr Habgood's foundation for our faith. The judgment of others is not in itself an absolute standard of value. It is a pointer, but it must be the individual through reflection, through self-searching, who reaches the ultimate ethical decision. The moral criterion is self-consciousness. Was it not Peter whom Christ made the rock and foundation of his Church - Peter, who lacked self-control and was fickle in character and hardly exemplary by society's contemporary norms? Does that not suggest that the true foundation must be the individual who is conscious of the collisions within him, rather than somebody who is cast

permanently as the protagonist of good?

Every individual needs renewal from those inner conflicts, but not by pressing them upon his neighbours under the cloak of Christian love, or a sense of social responsibility, or any other collectivist euphemism which merely conceals an unconscious urge to personal power. In planting his emphasis so firmly in the public dimension of faith, at the expense of the essential privacy and uniqueness of religious experience, Dr Habgood was only reflecting the unfortunate collective tendencies which have taken hold of so much contemporary religious activity from the razzmatazz of papal tours down to the involvement of priests of all denominations in all kinds of political and social pressure groups.

The injunction is not to love thy neighbour. It is to love thy neighbour as thyself. To do that you have to know yourself and be conscious of life's eternal paradoxes which ebb and flow within the individual's spirit. To elevate community religion above man's individual struggle to know and love himself and through that self awareness to know and love his neighbour is achieved only by the suppression of those paradoxes.

It is from that suppression that Christendom, for all its professions of good intent, has been a history of schism, of religious wars, of the burning of heretics, of anathemas and iconoclasm. "I am come not to bring peace, but a sword," said Christ. How wildly has organized religion in His name turned that statement into a territorial and doctrinal battlefield rather than a search for ultimate unity based on the recognition of tolerable diversity in man's individual spirit and through him to the diversity of each community. How ironic that Christian missionaries fanned out to preach the Gospel of love to heathens while leaving so many spiritual heathens behind them in Europe.

So long as religion is only public faith and outward form men will fight to codify it. They will rise up to correct it. As Dr Habgood said in his sermon, with approval, they must forever be building and forever pulling down. In those circumstances the religious function will not be experienced within our souls, and nothing of importance will have happened to the spirit. Religious experience is absolute and unique. It cannot be disputed. It cannot be codified or collectivized. Today's Christians should therefore no longer cling obstinately to a one-sided credo, ignoring the many schisms of their Church and its contradictions and the attempts to impose dogmatic solutions on matters which are and must remain mysteries of the soul.

Conventional religious education imposes artificial limits on the idea of Christianity. It seeks to specify something which can only be unspecific. The

eternal symbols which have helped man's acceptance of something greater than himself are as old as mankind. They have been translated by Christian ritual into a moment of revelation which, in Christian teaching, suggests that nothing went before. It is as though a cathedral has been built over a pagan temple without the congregation knowing or caring that the pagan temple is still there underneath them. If the mystery is absolute it follows that ritual only helps if it assists mankind to accept the mystery as ineffable. It should help the individual submit to the irrational facts of religious experience. How can they be codified and dogmatized and remain irrational?

It is not therefore a public creed, however impressive, however inspiring, which can lay the foundations for the freedom and autonomy of an individual but that individual's knowledge and awareness of an intensely personal experience which owes nothing to the world of reason or fashion or ritual or society. To try to educate individuals to believe in religion is understandable, but it causes ultimate risks in creating a readiness to believe anything or everything that they do not understand for themselves; and thus as easily and as quickly to disbelieve.

Christians today have to accept that their Church and its public manifestations of faith live in the shadow of 400 years of splits. There is no future in every denomination insisting on its own doctrinal standpoint while hiding behind the Gospel of brotherly love and Christian unity. The only doctrine is that there is a God expressed in many forms, through many languages and symbolised in many rituals. All of them are true. That is no more contradictory than the contradictions of Tertullian: "and the Son of God is dead, which is to be believed because it is absurd. And buried. He rose again, which is certain because it is impossible". No rational set of precepts can be built solely on those paradoxes.

The great world religions of which Judaism, Christianity and Islam all spring from a single source, but also Buddhism, have in their own ways accorded man a central place in the ultimate scheme of things. The foundation of that scheme is the spirit. The rites emphasise spiritual renewal, born of the struggle between the opposites of good and evil. With great respect to the new Archbishop it is not a question of anyone not wanting to be "just an individual" in this struggle, preferring the protection of society. We are and will remain individuals. We cannot be otherwise. The spirit of man is not some social endowment. It rages within each individual where the God of love is also the God of war; where light and darkness alternate and intermingle for ever. That is the divine conflict within us. That is the way of the Cross.

WHEN A MARRIAGE HAS BROKEN DOWN

Important social issues are raised by the Government's Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Bill, which is to be debated by the House of Lords today.

At present divorce proceedings cannot be started within three years of the date of the marriage unless leave of the court is obtained on the ground that the case is one of exceptional hardship suffered by the petitioner, or exceptional depravity on the part of the respondent. The purpose of the bill is to discourage irresponsible or trial marriages and to provide an external buttress to the stability of marriages during the difficult early years. The Bill now seeks to replace this provision by an absolute bar on petitions for divorce within one year of marriage, without exception.

The main reason for the proposal, which was initially recommended by the Law Commission, is that the present rule works unsatisfactorily and is inconsistent with the policy of our present divorce law, that a marriage which has broken down irretrievably should be dissolved with the minimum bitterness, distress, and humiliation. It requires a spouse seeking leave to petition for divorce within the three year period to make the most unpleasant allegations against his or her partner in order to make out a convincing case. This does nothing to help either party to come to terms with the breakdown of the marriage, or to adopt a conciliatory attitude towards the resolution of problems such as the upbringing of their children.

Would the change make divorce easier? The answer must

be yes. But that is not the real issue. The question is whether the proposal would further undermine the institution of marriage. To a large degree this must depend on the extent to which the present rule still fulfils its original function. It is, in fact, highly doubtful whether it really does discourage people from entering into hasty marriages. There cannot be many people, even nowadays, who marry with one eye on the altar and the other on the divorce court.

Such evidence as there is tends to suggest that the restriction only preserves, for an arbitrary period of time, the legal bond between some couples whose marriage has, in fact, irretrievably broken down. The proposal should therefore not be seen as a new threat to the institution of marriage. It does no more than develop the policy of the Divorce Reform Act 1969. Viewed from that perspective, the advantages of the proposed change clearly outweigh its disadvantages.

The merits of the proposed changes to the principles governing financial awards after divorce are no less debatable. The present statute requires the court to consider all the circumstances of the case, and then to try to place the parties in the financial position in which they would have been had the marriage not broken down. The statutory objective embodies a principle of life-long support at the standard enjoyed during the marriage. The principle is rooted in the concept of marriage as a life-time union and reflects an earlier law of divorce founded on the doctrine of the matrimonial offence. Now that divorce (and remarriage) is no longer exceptional, and irrevocable break-

down rather than fault is the ground of divorce, the statutory objective has become inappropriate as the primary aim to be achieved by financial orders after divorce. It is also rarely attainable in practice, because a husband with two homes (and often two families) to support will seldom have the resources to maintain the first one at its previous level.

The Bill rightly proposes the removal of the present statutory objective. But something is needed to replace the principle of life-long support. The Bill would require the court to give priority to the welfare of the children in its consideration of all the circumstances (which already happens), and to consider in every case whether it would be "appropriate" to make an order finally terminating the parties' financial obligations towards each other, either at once or after a period of adjustment. That apart, the Bill is quite directionless. Nothing is said about the aims to be pursued when a "clean break" is not appropriate (presumably the majority of cases), nor about how the court is to decide when such an order would be appropriate.

There must of course be flexibility in this branch of the law, because of the widely varying facts of each case, but there is a real danger that the almost complete lack of guiding principles in the Bill would create widespread uncertainty and inconsistency of practice. The danger here is particularly acute because the decisions involve the exercise of a judicial discretion and so are rarely appealable. The courts are entitled to more guidance than this from Parliament.

Flaws in reform of Oxford entry

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, It is the ambition of many of the most intelligent sixth formers in the country to win a place at Oxford or Cambridge. The Dover committee's reforms at Oxford are presumably designed to spread this still more widely.

In so far as they simplify the entrance procedure, they will do so. The amendments by which colleges may set their own written tests as part of their interviews, and may express preferences for the E or the N mode of entry, not just college by college but subject by subject, make one wonder how successful they will prove to be.

Whatever has been achieved is at the expense of sixth-form education as a whole. Because of their pre-eminence, Oxford and Cambridge set standards and influence attitudes. Now Oxford is only to examine sixth formers more than six months before they take their A levels.

It seems a topsy-turvy method of selection. Academically it will favour the early developers, notoriously not always those who prove the soundest or most tenacious scholars in the long run. Socially, it will handicap those who, deprived of a good start at home, are only gradually discovering in sixth forms or sixth-form colleges the excitement of intellectual exploration.

It is also the method most likely to damage the sixth-form curriculum. Just when there are hopes of enabling gifted sixth formers to develop their talents more widely, and so equipping them to play their leading role in society more effectively, Oxford, examining earlier, encourages earlier specialisation.

The non-examined method of entry may appear the obvious answer. But there is merit in separate examinations by Oxford and Cambridge, and we must hope that a solution may soon be found which is more beneficial to our best students and more closely linked to the national curriculum which they follow.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER ELLIS, Chairman,
The Headmasters' Conference,
Marlborough College,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire.
November 17.

From the Headmaster of Shrewsbury School

Sir, If Oxford University's decision to abandon the seventh-term entry examination has been taken because the present system is held to be unfair to some candidates then, on the ground of fairness to all university candidates and to the other universities, should it not now give up its special entrance examination altogether?

Every other British university apart from Cambridge has to select its candidates without recourse to a special exam with results that seem no better and no worse than those of "Oxbridge".

From 1985 an increasing number of boys and girls who want to try for a place at Oxford will in practice have to sit a highly competitive examination, with all the special preparation this involves, some six or seven months before they take their A levels. This appears to many of us to be putting the dubious special status of the Oxford exam before the best interests of the candidates and of the university entry system as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. B. LANGDALE, Headmaster,
The School,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
November 12.

Video violence

From Miss I. Hayes

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Arthur Buterworth (November 16), is confusing fact with fiction. Horrors seen in real life by people who have not sought them out have a different psychology from the horrors invented by film-makers for money.

Perverting people watch video nasties for enjoyment and are tempted to imitate them. They are shown how to commit extra cruelties which they themselves could not invent.

The point of censorship is to protect people like Mr Buterworth from seeing the victims of sadistic crimes which less stable characters have been shown how to perform on video.

Yours,
I. HAYES,
The New House,
East Grafton,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire.
November 16.

Business confidence

From the Chairman of Reed International plc

Sir, In his letter of November 15 Mr Martin Wassell used your leader on the CBI conference for a generalized attack on the "gloom-mongers of the CBI" and the general competence of British managers.

It is true that some employers who spoke at the conference were gloomy about the victims of sadistic crimes which less stable characters have been shown how to perform on video.

They have been more active than most in emphasizing the massive disparity between increases in pay and productivity during the past ten years and have publicly accepted their share of the blame. However, it was not businessmen who were responsible for the Clegg awards, which did so much to raise pay expectations to dangerously high levels. It was not businessmen who increased the level of spending by central and local government to the point where it is taking a disproportionate amount of the wealth created by the business sector.

Businessmen recognize that the Prime Minister and the Chancellor are now making commendable efforts to restrain Government spending. Speakers at the CBI conference were not seeking a reversal of this policy. Instead they were seeking a shift in the balance of the expenditure away from revenue to capital account with a view to improving the infra-structure on which they depend but for which they are not responsible.

The CBI is also criticized for not being resolute in supporting the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sound basis for negotiations on Cyprus

From Mr Francis Noel-Baker

Sir, On Tuesday I returned from my forty-fifth visit since Eden sent me to Cyprus to mediate between Makarios and Harding. I visited both sides and met leading Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Inter alia, we discussed UDI and I warned them, verbally and on paper, against it because it would freeze the present partition, delay talks with Greek Cypriots and disturb mainland Turkey's relations with the Community.

Personally, however, I do not believe that Mr Denktash's declaration has changed much in Cyprus. I have long thought that the UN's "megaphone diplomacy", through inter-communal talks, was doomed to fail.

I am now more than ever convinced that the best hope is a sustained and persistent low profile shuttle mission, without publicity, to sound out the four parties (of whom Ankara and Greek Nicosia are decisive). It could seek to establish the real positions of the parties. If a basis for meaningful negotiations emerged by then, the parties could be invited to meet - not before. If not, no harm will be done.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
FRANCIS NOEL-BAKER,
10 Drayton Gardens, SW10.
November 18.

From Lord Bethell and others

Sir, We are pleased that the Government has, albeit belatedly and as a result of a further deterioration of the crisis, invoked the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee on Cyprus and invited our treaty partners, Greece and Turkey, for consultations on Cyprus's future. We in Friends of Cyprus have on many occasions urged this course through your column on successive British governments.

We invite the Government now to put Cyprus on the agenda of next week's Commonwealth conference. Their views on the "hijacking" of a large part of a fully developed Commonwealth country would be welcome at this stage, especially since it has been suggested that one or two Commonwealth countries, such as Malaysia and Bangladesh, might be ready to recognise the new "state".

Still, at least Mr Denktash's declaration of "independence" has put paid to the myth that prevailed in official circles since 1974 that inter-communal talks on their own could solve Cyprus's problems.

Whether or not Ankara knew of the decision in advance, the presence of about 18,000 of her troops in the north of Cyprus will place the Turkish government in a particularly awkward position vis-à-vis her various treaty obligations. We cannot imagine how Turkey will

explain this to her NATO partners or to the other two guarantor powers.

The United States policy of leaving Cyprus on the "back burner" has also proved a failure. Nearly 10 years of separation, with no effective outside power showing willingness to mediate, have served only to make the two communities harder to reconcile.

We are encouraged to note that the Government now seems ready to carry out its duties under the Treaty of Guarantee and, for the sake of peace in the eastern Mediterranean, we implore Greece and Turkey to work seriously with Britain in this initiative.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BETHELL, Chairman,
ALFRED DUBS, Vice-Chairman,
CYRIL D. TOWNSEND, Vice-Chairman,
Friends of Cyprus,
Palace of Westminster, SW1.
November 18.

From Mr Paul Mullins

Sir, Why should the partition of Cyprus not formally be recognized? The Turkish Cypriots will surely be reluctant to ever engage in more than the loosest federation with their fellow Greek islanders, after their own appalling experiences during the long and farcical campaign for Enosis (union with Greece) waged by the Eoka terrorists prior to 1974.

With the island now tranquil because it is divided the best that can be hoped for is in effect two separate states under one federal umbrella - perhaps that of the UN.

If there is to be any reconciliation in Cyprus, it must be between two parties of equal standing, and this means that the fictitious veil of Turkish illegality must be cast off. There is just fault on both sides, which the current legal situation does not recognize.

Britain, Greece and Turkey, as guarantors of the 1960 treaty of independence, have a duty to find a practical solution to the Cyprus problem. This sadly must include recognizing that the island is divided for good, and for the better.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL MULLINS,
22 Bromfield Street, N1.
November 16.

From Dr John Triseliotis

Sir, Those who ask whether the Republic of Cyprus will use force to re-unite Cyprus, seem to forget that there are more Turkish mainland soldiers per square mile in Cyprus than the reported number of Russians in Afghanistan.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TRISELIOTIS,
20 Braid Farm Road,
Edinburgh.
November 17.

The Nilsen case

From Professor John Gunn

Sir, It is incorrect of David Nicholson-Lord (feature, November 5) to equate the Sutcliffe and Nilsen trials. In *R v Sutcliffe* there was unanimous psychiatric evidence that the defendant suffered from severe mental illness and that he fitted within the criteria established for diminished responsibility under the Homicide Act of 1957.

It was legally correct, but against established practice, and unhelpful for the jury to examine this matter. The jury would have been more understandable had it been possible to obtain a psychiatrist who disagreed with his colleagues so that a genuine debate of expert opinion could have been put before the jury. As it was, the debate became an unequal battle between psychiatrists and prosecution lawyers. It was no surprise that the prosecution lawyers won.

In the Nilsen case there was agreement that Mr Nilsen did not suffer from a psychosis, but there was a difference of opinion among the psychiatrists as to whether the "severity" of any personality disorder he has and whether or not his disorder fits the criteria for diminished responsibility. In these circumstances, which are quite common in murder trials, it is entirely appropriate for the jury to decide between the two sets of expert opinion.

Of course these psychiatric wrangles, which fit uneasily into our jury system, could be eliminated almost entirely by adopting the recommendation of the Butler committee made in 1975. The mandatory sentence of life imprisonment for murder should be abolished and then the trial would be concerned, as it is in all other types of offence, only with the facts and overriding factors which absolve all responsibility.

The vast majority of psychiatric evidence could then be introduced into the sentencing phase to decide upon an appropriate disposal balancing the needs of the offender against the needs of society.

It must seem particularly ironic to Mr Justice Croom-Johnson, who tried the Nilsen case, to watch these unnecessary and highly expensive diminished responsibility wrangles when he was vice-chairman of the Butler committee that made such a sensible proposal eight years ago and which has been assiduously ignored by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GUNN,
Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Denmark Hill, SE5.
November 7.

'Social justice'

From Mr Daniel Johnson

Sir, It is very much to be doubted whether A. J. Nicholls (November 16) is right to diagnose amnesia in Friedrich von Hayek's scepticism about the notion of a "social market economy". Professor Hayek's faculties seem undiminished to many of us and it is especially dangerous even for so fine a historian as Mr Nicholls to quote the case of Erhard against him.

In the May issue of *Encounter* Professor Hayek is quoted thus: "May I tell you the story of when I last spoke to Dr Ludwig Erhard? We were alone for a moment and he turned to me and said, 'I hope you don't misunderstand me when I speak of a social market economy (sozialen Marktwirtschaft). I mean by that that the market economy as such is social, not that it needs to be made social...'"

Yours faithfully,
DANIEL JOHNSON,
14 Ashchurch Terrace, W12
November 16.

Government's changes in industrial relations legislation. This is a travesty. Not only has the CBI consistently supported the Secretaries of State for Employment in the Bills they have introduced since 1979, it has also played a significant role in their original construction.

However, good industrial relations are not made by law alone; they are made by enlightened management and responsible trade unions and employees.

Finally, Mr Wassell talks of his "not inconsiderable contact with foreign businessmen". I have such contacts, too. Like him I find them full of admiration for the resolution that has been displayed by Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues. I also find a similar degree of admiration for the way in which British employers have responded to the toughest economic environment the world has seen since the war and one which hit Britain first and most severely.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX JARRATT,
Reed International plc,
Reed House,
83 Piccadilly, W1.
November 16.

Efforts to save Calke Abbey

From the Chairman of the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty

Sir, For the past year the National Trust has been seeking ways to save Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Our efforts so far have been in vain and the Calke estate will, accordingly, soon come under the hammer, unless the Government can be persuaded to help.

The importance of Calke lies in the timeless quality of the house, its contents, outbuildings and splendid landscaped park. As a document of social history it can have few equals. The whole estate comprises one of the few remaining unspoiled tracts of countryside in the vulnerable and built-up area of south Derbyshire.

The National Trust would open the house and park for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, and its programme of repair and conservation would, over the years, make a significant contribution to employment in the area.

On the death of his elder brother in March, 1981, Mr Henry Harpur-Crewe and his trustees faced a huge capital transfer tax liability. The only way to keep Calke intact was to offer it in lieu of tax to the Treasury, with the intention that the property should pass to the National Trust.

After lengthy negotiations, the Treasury agreed to accept the house, its contents and the immediately surrounding parkland, all of which were classed as "heritage values". No allowance was made, however, for any endowment to come to the National Trust, either in the form of outlying land, or a capital sum raised from the sale of land. The Trust could not be expected to take the property on these terms, and with time now running out, the Harpur-Crewe trustees have been forced to begin the process of selling.

When the National Heritage Memorial Fund was established in 1980 it was recognised by the Government in Parliament that special assistance by way of a supplementary grant to the fund might well be needed if more than one property of national importance came under threat at the same time.

It must be appreciated that as a result of the recent rescue operation for Belton House, the National Heritage Memorial Fund may not be able to provide the necessary funds to save Calke without further recourse to the Government. The National Trust is asking Ministers to exercise the discretion already provided for in the heritage legislation to accept the land which would enable Calke Abbey to be endowed and preserved for the nation.

Yours faithfully,
GIBSON, Chairman,
The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty,
36 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
November 17.

Church and remarriage

From the Bishop of Knaresborough

Sir, May I clarify the purpose of my amendment to the remarriage proposals before the Synod, as reported in *The Times* of November 11.

The wording accepted by Synod makes no judgment as to whether vows can or cannot be rescinded, but speaks rather of "release" from the "effects and obligations" of those vows; and it does this in a firmly pastoral rather than juridical context, "for the quieting of your conscience".

My amendment, however, also makes plain, and this was my purpose in moving it, that this release can only be a personal nature. Many of the commitments arising from a previous marriage are, by their very nature, lifelong and these go far beyond what any court of law may require. There is the lasting commitment of love towards any children. For Christians there must also be a lasting concern for the wellbeing of the previous partner.

No release therefore can be total. My amendment has, I hope, clarified this point by speaking of such release as being only from those obligations "which are now incapable of fulfilment", thereby leaving the rest intact.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KNARESBOROUGH,
16 Shaftesbury Avenue,
London WC2E 7BN.
West Yorkshire.
November 12.

Winged chariot

From Mr Richard Aplin

Sir, Dr Humphrey (November 12) can surely not have missed the discovery of another contender for the shortest measurable interval of time. I refer to the period elapsed between Monsignor Bruce Kent speaking his mind and a Tory MP asking for his position to be reviewed. I venture to suggest this unit be called "a hume".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD APLIN,
Hart Cottage,
20 Easton Road,
Middle Barton,
Oxford.
November 16.

Path of error

From Mr Paul Jennings

Sir, Some lines composed upon reading my own article (line 2) in *The Times* today:

"Vine media" non scripsi,
Cum scribam was not tippy!
"Vine media" I wrote
Sed error crept into this quote;
Quomodo, knows only Deus -
Error certe non est mens!

Yours sincerely,
PAUL JENNINGS,
Hill House,
Rectory Hill,
East Bergholt,
Near Colchester,
Essex.
November 17.

THE ARTS

The experience of *Good and Bad at Games*, which opens at the London Film Festival today, has fired William Boyd with enthusiasm for more scriptwriting: interview by John Preston

Exploring all the richness of adolescence

The path from novelist to screenwriter can be a tricky one to negotiate. The dialogue that sits happily on the page often sounds lifeless and awkward in front of the cameras. Yet it is a transition that William Boyd, whose novel *An Ice-Cream War* was a leading contender for last year's Booker Prize, has managed with considerable assuredness in his first screenplay, *Good and Bad at Games*, which has been directed by Jack Gold and is premiering today at the London Film Festival. It will be shown on Channel 4 on December 8. The script evolved loosely from a story in Boyd's first book, *On the Yankee Station*, about a group of public schoolboys taking fumbling steps in courtship with girls from a neighbouring school. In the film, Boyd cuts back and forth between school days and a decade later, showing how received attitudes have remained entrenched and unquestioned, and, in particular, how bullying can leave an ineradicable mark.

public-school life were an almost extinct breed. Young authors who had been privately educated tended to look shifty and mumble inaudibly when questioned too closely about their privileged backgrounds. As a result, a large slice of adolescent experience went virtually undocumented. It is a gap that Boyd was anxious to fill.

"There seemed to me", he says, "to be an incredible paucity of good writing about adolescent public schoolboys. Considering how many British writers must have been through the public school system, the number of good realistic books, or films or television plays on the subject could be counted on the fingers of one hand. Apart from *Tom Brown's Schooldays* and *Stalky and Co*, all plucky little chaps and rovers. That's not what it was like at all for me. I wanted to write a script that would conjure up the experience as I remember it. I also wanted to explore that peculiar richness of adolescence. Some people have an

experience at the age of 17 or 18 in terms of prestige and adulation, particularly if they are good at games, which they will never again recapture in their adult lives. So life after school is oddly flat and disappointing."

Boyd was brought up in Nigeria, where his father was a doctor and his mother a teacher. At the age of nine he was sent to prep school in Scotland and thence on to Gordonstoun. He was not, he insists, particularly unhappy at school and managed to escape relatively unscathed. But others around him were not quite so lucky. "I remember there was one boy who was hated by literally everyone. I've no idea why but he had absolutely no friends. I wonder what it must be like for someone like that now, how it must have affected him. The extraordinary thing is that most people, once they've got through it, once they've survived, tend to start looking back rather fondly at it all. But what if someone went slightly mad or had a nervous breakdown? And what if all the time, even years later, he was

still planning to get his own back on the person responsible for making his life hell?"

At 31, and prompted by the success of *An Ice-Cream War*, Boyd has recently taken the plunge and given up his job as a lecturer in English Literature at St Hilda's College, Oxford, to become a full-time writer. With all the fuss surrounding the Booker Prize these days, the experience of having narrowly missed could well induce creative atrophy for life. Boyd, however, is busier and more productive than ever. Another film script has already been completed and he has just finished the first draft of a new novel, *Stars and Bars*, about an Englishman stranded in a remote hick town somewhere on the Alabama-Georgia border. "Obviously it is a far cry from the adolescent brutalities of *Good and Bad at Games*, but, once more, instilled values come under examination in times of crisis."

"It's a serious comic novel. The main character is fleeing English attitudes and states of mind. He



Photograph of William Boyd by Peter Tyrer

Concerts

Not a moment let go to waste

Arditti Quartet
Huddersfield Festival

Once again, as each November, the musical mind of the country has taken itself to Huddersfield, whose Contemporary Music Festival is bursting with new things. Most days there are three or four concerts, with the gaps filled in by lectures, seminars and films. The schedule is tough, and toughened further by programming that does not waste our time with yesterday's music.

Friday night's Arditti Quartet recital was typical. The classics were Carter's Second and Third Quartets, both of them joined by a recent outburst from Xenakis, *Tetra*, and a brand new quartet by James Dillon.

It was not, however, hard work. The Arditti play Carter the way most quartets play Haydn: strongly, sensibly, wittily, as if there were no difficulty of performance or understanding. They also gave a remarkably full and detailed account of the Dillon Quartet, which was completed less than three months ago. It is a work worthy of their expertise and care.

Playing continuously over a stretch of 20 minutes, it occupies a world of charming brilliance interspersed with periods of lethargy. All four instruments enjoy playing with quick figures in the cold, clean air at the top of their registers, although sometimes the cello may stride a bass line in the even rhythmic values that give so much of the piece a decisive drive. Other inventions seem to exist to cloud individuality but have their own sharp elegance: mazes of slow interpenetrating

glissandos, networks of double stoppings, harmonies in high isolation. If there are sloughs of despond, there are also bursts of obviousness to set the music racing again with intellectual and expressive energy.

The Xenakis, being music more hewn than thought and felt, was a good finale. It is a wonderfully barbaric piece, and although often coarse, it has savage beauties that the Arditti brought forward resolutely.

Paul Griffiths

LPO/Solti
Festival Hall

It was a concert that seemed a little too effortful in the assembly, and just a little too easy in the despatch. On Friday Haydn's "Military" Symphony became an overture, three pieces from Berlioz's *Damnation of Faust* acted as a lightweight entrée, and the Brahms Violin Concerto ended a rather incohesive and ultimately strangely unsatisfying concert by the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

It was not as if their conductor emeritus, Sir Georg Solti, failed to produce gold, often exciting playing, the polish, power and precision of the Haydn did not after all overdominate its less militaristic qualities of grace and good humour. The military was presented, quite rightly, decoratively and fancifully, and it put the orchestra into a good mood for the Rakoczi March fantasy of the Berlioz.

The "Will o' the Wisp" minuet, too, was lit with taste

unpredictability as shooting string flames hurried from the woodwind's dance, disrupting its very urbanity. And the same highly strung, instantaneous responses, the same raw nervous reactions which Sir Georg, unfailingly whips from his players, made the "Sylvia's Dance" a barely voiced, yet tingling ghost-waltz.

Both the very debonair quality of the Haydn and the insubstantiality of the Berlioz, though, seemed to throw an uncomfortable and unbalanced weight of expectation on the Brahms. Solti gave ample time and space for evolution, and the orchestra balanced this with deep-hewn staccatos and forceful accents. And itzhak Perlman, not perhaps at his most technically polished, gave a performance that was nevertheless fluently rhapsodic and reliably dramatic, without ever quite questioning or stimulating any of his or our more comfortably assured responses.

Hilary Finch

Claudio Abbado has signed a new long-term contract with Deutsche Grammophon. As music director of the London Symphony Orchestra, Abbado will commence a cycle of Mendelssohn symphonies and complete the Mozart piano concertos with Rudolf Serkin.

Dance

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

We all know that the Royal Ballet is not exactly at its highest peak just at present, but there is no excuse for it to appear quite so depressingly poor as it did last week. The customary miscasting (based on the assumption that anyone who has been named a principal dancer must be suited to principal roles) was only partly to blame. Neither does the fault lie with the Covent Garden Orchestra: although playing in multi, to draw attention to a pay dispute, they were no worse and no better than usual.

So how to account for the weary, lack-lustre air and the fact that some dancers were doing markedly less well than they did in the same roles only last season? Why this loss of spirit, and how can it be remedied? Must heads roll (and, if so, whose), or will gentler measures prove enough? Whatever the answer, it is needed quickly.

Since *Raymonda Act III* was on the bill, I might have suspected my judgement to be jaundiced because of recent invidious comparisons. But it is not that the dances were, without exception, much less well performed than in the new Paris production. They were poor by any standard; and the whole audience noticed it. Not one of the soloists and princi-

pals roused enough applause to be able to come back and take a second bow.

The programme began with *Apollo* - or, to be accurate, *Apollo Scene II*, since it is given in the truncated form which Balanchine inexplicably preferred shortly before his death. One must not blame the Royal Ballet too much for that, since New York City Ballet have not yet restored the first scene, but they have said they intend to do so. Meanwhile, Stravinsky fans should be warned that they will not bear what the composer intended.

Bryony Brind had some nice moments, high-stepping at the beginning, and her solo as Terpsichore, but she had some odd moments too, and her colleagues were none of them at their best.

Ashton's *Variations Capricci* was the high spot of the evening, and will be fun for anyone who has not yet seen it, though I must say it does not really bear frequent viewing. As a piece for a gala occasion it is fine, in spite of Ossie Clark's silly costumes and David Hockney's splashy decor, but this season's programmes seem to be giving undue time to trivia. The cast of this work may be exempted from general criticism, so all is not lost. But whoever wrote the programme note should look to his apostrophes.

John Percival

PUBLISHING

The wild western winner

and, yes, Fay Weldon) than the self-contained extracts from no fewer than 26 of the most varied and intelligent novels published this year, including those by Malcolm Bradbury, D. M. Thomas, Salman Rushdie, Ann Schlee, A. N. Wilson, Graham Swift, Anthony Powell, John le Carré, Shiva Naipaul and Lawrence Sanders.

The large book, at £8.95, costs no more than many novels and is an absolute cornucopia of much that is best in contemporary British fiction. It is the bargain of the year, and will painlessly help you to decide which novels you want to read in full thereafter.

Mr Amis and Mr Burgess may not both have got on to the Book Marketing Council's latest promotional list of, merely, the 12 best novels written in the language since 1945 but they both have new novels coming from the same publisher, Hutchinson, in the Spring. Mr Amis's, *Stanley and the Women*, achieves the first page

of the new Hutchinson list; Mr Burgess's, *Endersby's Dark Lady*, is two pages later. Nor has Mr Burgess yet won the Booker Prize. Sometimes he must think he can never be first.

In my more jaundiced moments I wonder whether the English Centre of International PEN has more than about six members, Francis King, Lady Antonia Fraser, Katherine Nott, Lettice Cooper, Angus Wilson and probably another. International PEN is a most worthwhile and, alas, necessary organization but English PEN sometimes seems to exist for its own edification, which is fine. Even by its own standards of inbreeding some sort of record will surely be reached on its Writers' Day next Spring when, chaired by Lady Antonia, Sir Angus Wilson will speak on...

Angus Wilson

It is not too surprising that neither Sir Angus nor Doris Lessing and Muriel Spark are among the BMC's star novelists. All three were on the selectors' list for a previous promotion, The Best of British Authors, but were removed unilaterally by the BMC's director, Desmond Clarke, as he decided they were not promotable. Mr Clarke will not have to publicize the latest list (what would he have done with *Ty Compton-Burnett* and Elizabeth Taylor?) as he is off to Faber and Faber as marketing director.

E. J. Craddock

Television

Brilliant British raid on the Americans

Where were you when they broadcast Kennedy? (ITV in Britain, 24 other channels in far-flung places round the globe). Glued to the set no doubt, or at least checking that the video was working. Any difficulties you may have had in fitting your mental template of J.F.K. over the rather rounder features of Martin Sheen will not, in all probability, have detracted from your absorption in either the portrait of bygone days of the story itself.

Reg Gadeney, author and prime mover of this brilliant British raid on what should have been an inviolably American preserve, thinks his hero was a curiously empty man. That, presumably, was the key to Kennedy's success (politicians whose heads are full of their own thoughts seldom manage to ride the wave of the moment) and it is also perhaps the key to the success of Gadeney's script and Jim Goddard's direction, and to Sheen's success in the central part. Into

this empty vessel has been poured a rich cinematic brew, a plethora of plots and sub-plots unfolding with melodramatic intensity against a blindingly "authentic" backdrop.

"Squirt some juice into people's lives", exulted Bobby, anticipating the effect the new dynasty would have on a jaded nation. Grandpa Joe, a macho gleam in his eye, was shown presiding over a notably tough and (not to put too fine a point on it) juice-squirting clan. Frolicking in their pools, playing football on the New England cliff, bringing "class" to the dowdy halls of government, these stars of a real-life movie were seen constantly shadowed by the evil machinations of an arch-blackmailer. "The Kennedy weakness is sex", said J. Edgar Hoover (Vincent Gardemia) with twisted relish; Gadeney and Goddard took every opportunity to point up this threat as the fragile, fawned but lovable creatures set about embellishing them trying to steer, the ship of state. Vanity,

vigour and hope, with Caliban down below.

In Part 1, Kennedy was shown reluctantly acquiescing in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Part 2, tonight, opens at a furious pace with savagely intense scenes of Jackie's domestic extravagance and the brutalities meted out to the civil rights freedom riders. Over these episodes, as later over Vietnam, Kennedy represents the president as concerned as much with his image as with political principles, and to this extent at least it takes its historical responsibilities seriously.

These responsibilities should not be minimized: this may be "entertainment" but it is also the nearest some people may ever get to a history of a period which, through the rhetoric of contemporary politicians, is still very much with us. Kennedy's detractors accuse him of duplicity, timidity at home and recklessness abroad. His supporters concede some early mistakes and weaknesses but

claim that the statesman who died at Dallas would have become an even greater force for sanity and moderation had he lived.

The swirling emotionalism of the drama obscures some of the crucial historical points on which discussion turned in *The Kennedy Legacy* (BBC2). The trouble with this in many ways fascinating programme was that virtually all the interviewees were supporters. Was Kennedy privately irresponsible? "Everybody has some faults", beamed his erstwhile chum Lord Harewood; his sex-life was politically irrelevant, said Arthur Schlesinger. The president who emerged from this unduly intelligent discussion was a mellowing man, growing with the job. Was the Cuban missile crisis his finest hour, or his most shameful one? BBC2 was ambivalent. What will Gadeney and Goddard have to say? We shall know tomorrow night.

Michael Church

Pop music

R.E.M.
Dingwalls

Listening to R.E.M.'s debut album, *Murmur*, has been one of the year's most furtive pleasures for lovers of American garage punk rock. The record's selection of subdued Southern allusions and downbeat metaphysics has set this four-piece, from Athens, Georgia, at a pronounced angle to their contemporaries. Because of *Murmur*'s dark moods and

deliberate understatement the audience for R.E.M.'s first English appearance were probably expecting the band's live performance to be similarly brooding; if so they were in for a pleasant shock.

Where the recorded material relies on dark precision the stage versions are first and loud in the tradition of American garage punk rock. The strains of Sixties-crafted melodies that evoke such luminaries as Gene Clark and the Beau Brummels' Sal Valentino are giving a different focus and a far more vigorous shaking down of the ingredients. Then again, R.E.M.

are such an unlikely looking bunch of scruffy, with their unkempt hair and homespun leathers, that they fall back into the eccentric mould once inhabited by the Lovin' Spoonful.

R.E.M. stand on their own by virtue of some mesmerizing songs. Minor-key melodies clatter against hard rhythms while Michael Stipe's vocals drift through a ferocious wall of Rickiebacker noise. Poor sound occasionally disguised the instant of "Soviet", "Blindness" and "Laughing" but the power of the band's stage presence kept them on course in the face

of howling feedback. It even worked in their favour. Beside Stipe the instrumental approach of Berry, Buck and Mills was richly enigmatic. They shifted gears like a bad-tempered pick-up truck; they would bump and bang over rough terrain then surprise everyone by rolling along on the flat as if nothing was wrong. R.E.M.'s classic tales of angst, "Radio Free Europe" and the single "Talk About the Passion", illustrated their rare quality. They modulated from fearful emotion to a psychotic peak.

Max Bell

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"busy and colourful" (Financial Times)

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Cost includes John Treloven, Sally Burgess, Geoffrey Chard, Marilyn Hill Smith, Lois McDonald, Patricia O'Neill

Conductor Michael Schönwandl Producer Colin Graham

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 e Payment. f Bid for
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 or share split.
 h Dealings. i No



THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Is merger mania the bull market's swansong?

A few weeks ago, it was hardly possible to have a conversation in the City or read the Sunday financial pages without being regaled with some rumour about the latest part of the public sector about to be thrust into private hands. As the lengthy processes which privatisation requires have sunk in and the sale-of-assets privatisation timetable has become clearer, this talk has given way to a more familiar kind of City rumour: the takeover bid.

Anyone with a chunk of stock in a company that seems to be sagging thinks first of starting a bid rumour to get himself out at a profit. But there has to be an atmosphere in which any takeover seems possible and, preferably, a few substantial lines of stock floating around, for the wider rumours to have any plausibility at all.

The atmosphere certainly exists, created by, to name a few, the apparently unlikely bids for Thomas Tilling, P & O and Eagle Star. There are plenty of companies around with takeover ambitions and cash or high share price born of the bull market.

There are plenty of potential victim companies, some with large assets and depressed but improved profits, others where retirements have created a vacuum at the top, yet more where managements have cleaned up companies in difficulties without yet earning full appreciation of their efforts in terms of their stock market values.

The latest crop of rumours ranges from the highly possible to the wildly improbable. Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Group could bid for Burmah, as could others, but the rumours have been going round for some time.

Mr Jimmy Gulliver of Argyl Foods might like to bid for Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, but would probably not get away with it. The tobacco group BAT might like to add Royal Bank of Scotland to its bid for Eagle Star, but could not plausibly do it for some time.

Associated British Foods has denied bid intentions for Tate & Lyle, which has taken great pains to explain its progress around the City.

As readers of *The Times*'s prediction of the Trafalgar bid for P & O will be aware, enough rumours do turn into realities to keep speculators in business. But the current rash of takeover tips also has a more depressing message.

Bowater, another currently touted victim was last involved in a merger extravaganza exactly 11 years ago, when its ill-starred reverse takeover of Rath International marked the dying gasps of that bull market in shares on the stock exchange.

Takeover rumours have a nasty habit of reaching a frenzied pitch only when hopes of more conventional rises in share prices are petering out.

Unwinding Lord Leverhulme

The objective is simple, but the means are horribly complicated. Unilever wants to protect the charitable status of the Will Trust of the first Viscount Leverhulme against the deprivations of taxes undreamed of when the will was drawn up.

The Chancery Division in the High Court has agreed to changes which allow the trust to continue indefinitely instead of expiring in the year 2039. Shareholders

have to vote next month to cancel and then, paradoxically, restore the critical 14 per cent of Unilever's shares. Finally the Inland Revenue has to agree.

If all goes according to plan, charities - mainly scholarships for higher education and research - will continue to receive about £4m a year.

Changes are necessary largely because of capital transfer tax to which the trust would become liable in 1985. It would be faced with having to sell some of the Unilever shares it holds (amounting in all to 18 per cent of the equity) to pay CTT, and incur capital gains tax to boot. Both capital and income would drop and worthy causes made to suffer.

Of the 18 per cent of Unilever's equity held by the trust, the income from 14 per cent is attributable to a wholly-owned subsidiary called Associated Enterprises Ltd (AEL). The dividends on these shares are waived and thus effectively retained for the benefit of all shareholders. The balance of the trust's stake (4 per cent) provides income for charities.

Under the changes proposed the 14 per cent stake benefiting AEL will be cancelled but the same number of new shares will be created to bring the issued capital back up to its original figure. Unilever's earnings per share have always been calculated without counting the AEL interest so that part of the exercise should cause few problems.

The Leverhulme family interest in the trust will be converted into a special class of shares which can be converted into ordinary shares in 2038. The proposals relate only to Unilever plc and not to Unilever NV.

Unilever seems to have found a neat, if complex, solution to a difficult problem. If I were a Unilever shareholder I would not worry about it.

Well-trying communication

Barclays' decision to alert the world that it is a seller of 20 per cent of Mercury Telecommunications could not have been timed better.

Fears the Mercury may have to battle it out in the market place with competitors other than British Telecom were allayed on Thursday when Mr Kenneth Baker, Information and Technology Minister, announced that for the next seven years at least, there will only be two companies providing telecommunications services - the BT giant and the Mercury pigmy.

This restriction must increase the value of the 20 per cent of Mercury which Barclays Merchant Bank is now anxious to offload. But how BMB fulfils its original aim of being a short term holder, however, is still unclear.

Suggestions of a public flotation look premature. So are reports that the major shareholders, Cable & Wireless and BF, will automatically take up their preemptive rights.

So far, the three participants have put up a combined total of £90m. By the end of next year the total investment is expected to be near £200m.

Barclays is presumably looking for at least £20m. It might count itself lucky to get more. Mercury's prospects, even in a highly controlled market for telecommunications services, dim a little as BT prepares for its privatization change.

Spending boom spreading to wholesalers, says CBI

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Retailers look set to experience a record Christmas spending spree. According to the latest investigations by the Confederation of British Industry, almost 80 per cent of shopkeepers expect this month's sales to be up on a year ago.

The CBI's survey of the distributive trades, published today, also reveals that the high street boom has begun to spread to a wide cross-section of wholesalers, including those who supply industry, and may be an indication that the gradual economic recovery will continue to be consumer-led for months to come.

Although the survey is in its infancy, unlike the much respected CBI quarterly industrial trends survey, government ministers are likely to seize on the results as a counter to suggestions - and some tentative warnings from the CBI

itself - that the recovery might be faltering.

The survey, covering 678 distributors including 265 retailers, tends to confirm week-end reports that Christmas trading has begun early, with microcomputers, videos and television games among the products most in demand.

Some large shops even in the depressed West Midlands, are said to be reporting sales increases of 25 per cent compared with the same time last year.

The CBI figures show that throughout the distributive trades, companies have been caught out by the speed of the rise in demand. In September, a positive balance of 42 per cent expected the October sales volume to be up; in the event, the balance turned out to be 54 per cent. A similar increase in sales volume is now predicted

for this month compared with last year.

On the buoyant retail front, the volume of orders placed with suppliers was significantly higher than in the same month a year ago, giving a positive balance of 49 per cent of retailers saying they had stepped up orders. A similar increase is expected in the year to the end of November.

Among wholesalers, a positive balance of 70 per cent reported an increase in sales in the year to the end of last month, much higher than the 32 per cent predicted in September. The CBI says: "Significantly, these increases are reported across all parts of wholesaling, including the industrial categories."

In turn, wholesalers expect their demand to manufacturers

to rise steadily. This month, 57 per cent said their orders to suppliers would increase and 50 per cent expect stocks to rise, compared with a year ago.

An uncertain picture is presented, however, by the motor trade, which appears to be losing impetus since the record August boom in car sales. In October, 48 per cent said sales were down on a year earlier and 47 per cent reported a rise in stocks.

This month, 35 per cent of motor traders expect sales to be down compared with November last year and 42 per cent plan to reduce their orders to suppliers.

Despite the healthy signs in the distributive trades, industrialists are still concerned that without an increase in activity in the basic manufacturing sectors, the retail boom will serve to suck in more imports.

Packer buys 10% stake in TV-am

By Jonathan Clark

The Aitken family temporarily increased its stake in TV-am to almost 30 per cent during the troubled breakfast television station's financial reconstruction, while awaiting the advent of a new shareholder, which emerged as Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian media owner.

It was confirmed yesterday that Mr Packer's Consolidated Press had taken a 10 per cent stake in TV-am last Friday for £1m. One shareholder said: "It is not a rumour, it is fact."

The majority of the shares came from Aitken Telecommunications, the Aitken family company. Mr Timothy Aitken is TV-am's chief executive.



Kerry Packer: director to join TV-am board

The Aitken family despite Friday's deal, is still marginally the biggest shareholder in the company, with about 20 per cent.

Fleet Holdings, the newspaper company which includes the *Daily Express*, *Daily Star* and *Sunday Express*, also has 20 per cent, bought three weeks ago for £2m.

Final figures have still to be juggled and it is likely that the Aitken family and Fleet will end up as "first equals."

Fleet was aware that Mr Packer was likely to become a shareholder when it bought its shareholding.

The Packer stake completes the reconstruction of TV-am and no new shareholders are now expected to emerge. Mr Packer has two Australian television stations and they are likely to contribute material to TV-am. But the present formula, which has built up the audience to 1.1 million, is unlikely to be changed to broadcast, say, Australian sport over British breakfast.

Mr Packer's company will also put a director on the TV-am board.

Mr Rupert Murdoch, who owns *The Times* through News International, is also said to have expressed interest in investing in TV-am, but wanted a company with direct involvement in satellite broadcasting.



Timothy Aitken: family still biggest shareholder

Rising home loans 'will fuel spending'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

Mortgage lending is likely to go on rising rapidly, fueling consumer spending and helping to sustain the recovery and output, the London Business School predicts today.

In a new publication, *Financial Outlook*, which traces the financial flows underlying the LBS economic forecasts, it says the outstanding stock of housing loans will grow by 30 per cent in real terms over the next three years, with much of the extra lending leaking into general consumption.

This, and continuing low inflation, will help keep the savings ratio (the proportion of income saved) at around present low levels of 6 per cent, the LBS says, ensuring that rising real incomes are transferred into increased spending.

The Treasury, too, believes that inflation, together with lower interest rates, will keep savings down, because lower inflation means consumers need to save less to maintain the real value of their financial wealth.

Its forecast for 2.5 per cent growth for consumer spending in 1984, after 3.5 per cent this year, relies both on a small further fall in savings and a rise in real after-tax incomes.

Despite the slowdown, consumer spending is still expected to be the biggest single component of the 3 per cent growth in

national output forecast for 1984.

The LBS says company profits will continue to rise rapidly over the next two years. It expects companies to invest more at home and to acquire more foreign assets, now that they have the funds to do so.

But the LBS also believes that investment abroad by financial institutions will be cut back because portfolios now contain the desired proportion of overseas stocks and shares, and that foreigners will step up their investment in Britain.

"So there is no net reduction in finance available in this country," the *Financial Outlook* concludes.

In a special "viewpoint" the *Outlook's* editor, Mr Giles Keating, argues that cutting public borrowing will not result in lower interest rates without a radical change in financial management. He recommends the creation of a "silt famine" to bring interest rates down at the long end of the market and thus revive the corporate bond market.

The Government's own borrowing needs to dampen monetary growth in the face of high bank lending is self-defeating, Mr Keating argues, because it keeps long term rates high and depresses short term rates, further encouraging bank lending.

New blow to Wibau as chief executive resigns

By Our Financial Staff

Wibau, the troubled West German cement equipment manufacturer, and its parent company, IBH - in which British companies hold a 23 per cent stake - was hit further at the weekend by the sudden resignation of Herr Roland Spicka, the chief executive.

The founder and chief executive of IBH, Herr Horst-Dieter Esch, said the departure followed disagreements with West German banks about Wibau's accounts.

Both IBH and Wibau are in receivership following the near collapse this month of the company's principal bank, Schroeder, Muenchmeyer, Hengst (SMH), said more than 800 of the 2,500 workers at the

three British subsidiaries of IBH were told they would be laid off.

Herr Spicka's resignation came as the committee of banks now running SMH was reviewing an application for a loan to meet Wibau's immediate liquidity needs. Wibau has been seeking a loan of Dm6m (about £1.5m) in advance of a decision expected this week from the Hesse state government whether to grant a credit guarantee of Dm50m.

Last Friday, a meeting between Herr Esch and the banks was inconclusive, although yesterday (Sunday) he was reported as saying that the interim loan, now cut to Dm3m, had been approved.

Brittan to check on Manx crisis

By Our Financial Staff

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, is likely to discuss the effects of the succession of banking crises on the Isle of Man's economy when he visits the island this Thursday.

Since the failure of the Savings and Investment Bank and the subsequent collapse of smaller banks, cash has been drained from the island by investors.

The visit is primarily intended to establish contact between Mr Brittan as the new Home Secretary and the Manx Government. As a Privy Counsellor, he is the island's link with the Queen.

Banking and insurance normally contributes about one-quarter of the island's income. Investors who had lost money in the collapses were all told action was the responsibility of the Manx authorities.

The Manx Government recently eased some of the tough restrictions it placed on the issue of banking and deposit-taking licences after the collapses.

The Isle of Man's pioneering plastic £1 note is due to enter circulation on Wednesday. The notes are printed on a material developed by Bradbury, Wilkinson - a firm of banknote makers - and Du Pont, the US chemical company.

The life of the note has been put at five to 15 years and it is expected to be popular with the public which dislikes coins - the Isle of Man has had a £1 coin for four years.

ECU bond launching

Copenhagen (Reuter) The European Community's 10-year bond of 75 million European currency units will be split into two parts and is expected to be launched today, the joint lead-manager, Sparskassen SDS, reported.

A total of 50 million currency units will carry an 11 per cent coupon and be priced at par; the rest will carry a low coupon of about 6 per cent and a premium redemption to yield almost 11 per cent.

The second issue is expected to be floated on the Copenhagen bourse.

The Week Ahead, page 14

STOCK EXCHANGES

Change on week

FT Index 721.4 down 3.7
FT 1000 83.15 down 0.55
FT All Share 452.16 down 1.3

Bargains: 17,902
Datastream USM Leaders
Index 55.05 down 1.46
New York: Dow Jones
Average 1251.02 up 0.82
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
Index 9,386.68 up 61.05
Hong Kong: Hang Seng
Index 868.49 up 21.55
Amsterdam 148.4 down 2.1
Sydney: AO Index 713 up 0.6
Frankfurt: Commerzbank
Index 1009.3 down 6.5
Bremen: General Index
127.11 up 4.23
Paris: CAC Index 144.8 up 2.7
Zurich: SKA General 285.7 up 5.1

CURRENCIES

Change on week

LONDON
Sterling \$1.470 down 175pts
Index 85.6 down 0.5
DM 3.5725 down 0.01
FF 12.050 down 0.005
Yen 347.00 down 3.50
Dollar Index 128.7 up 0.7
DM 2.7040
NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.4665
Dollar DM 2.7092
INTERNATIONAL
ECU0.668519
SDR0.709303

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$376.25 pm \$375.25
close \$376.00 (\$255.75)
New York (latest): \$377.50
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$386.50-388.00 (\$263.00-264.00)
Sovereigns (new):
\$88.50-\$89.50 (\$260.25-\$261.00)
Excludes VAT

ANNUAL MEETINGS

TODAY - Resource Technology, 24 Austin Friars, EC2 (10 am).
WEDNESDAY - Barratt Developments, Savoy Hotel, Strand, WC2 (noon).
THURSDAY - Amnair Consumer Electronics, The Northumberland Suite, Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, 748 High Road, Tottenham, N1 (3 pm); Goodman Brothers, The Westbury Hotel, Conduit Street, W1 (noon); John Maunders Construction, Midland Hotel, Peter Street, Manchester (noon); TSW-Television South West Holdings, The Studios, Derry's Cross, Plymouth (2.30).
FRIDAY - Great Universal Stores, Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2 (noon); M. P. Kent, The Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol (noon); Manson Finance Trust, Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (noon).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistan to press for \$20bn aid

Pakistan will seek \$20 billion (£13 billion) for a five-year development plan when a World Bank consortium of 11 nations meets in Paris next month, Mr Mahbub ul Haq, the country's Planning Minister, said yesterday.

The money was needed, Mr Haq said, to finance several projects in the country's sixth development plan, launched last July at an estimated cost of 495 billion rupees (26 billion).

Last April, the consortium members, which include Britain and the US, pledged \$1.4 billion to Pakistan for the financial year which started on July 1.

International banks have committed more than \$5.8 billion (£3.9 billion) to a planned \$6.5 billion loan for Brazil, Mr William Rhodes, chairman of the country's 14-bank advisory committee, said.

The Government has created a vicious circle as a result of "clever politicking" that would force the country out of the civil aircraft manufacturing business, according to Mr Ken Gill, the general secretary of Tass, the white collar section of the engineering union. The aircraft industry would, he said, become sub-contractors for American companies, if ministers did not agree inject about £400m of launch aid into the proposed European Airbus A320 airliner in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake.

Gas Price increases need not be as high as the 5 per cent proposed, according to the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association. It says that up to £100m a year is used by the gas industry from profits to subsidize central heating installations work and servicing by the regional boards.

Singer & Friedlander assets may top £50m

By Graham Seargeant

Singer & Friedlander, the accepting house put up for sale last week, is likely to show a net worth of around £50m when final sales documents are drawn up by S G Warburg, the rival merchant bank, in two to three weeks.

Singer's last balance sheet showed net assets of £37m. But profits this year will show a strong improvement on last year's £4.5m and the balance sheet will also make allowance for hidden reserves and higher property values, notably the bank's new City headquarters.

Hidden reserves are unlikely to be shown separately. Since European Ferries announced the sale, in order to concentrate its business on shipping, the port of Felixstowe and property, Singer and Warburg have had a constant

stream of inquiries. So far about eight of them are considered serious.

Singer has let it be known that it does not want to be taken over by an American bank and is not thought to welcome a link with money broking groups, which are thought to be interested. Nor does it welcome the group being organized by venture Mr Michael Ashcroft and Mr David Wickins, head of British Car Auctions.

When European Ferries bought Singer from the Bowring insurance broking group for £23.5m in 1980, it paid slightly less than the bank's true asset value. But in the changed climate of ferment in financial services, European Ferries will be hoping to sell at a premium over asset value.

Brent crude makes London futures debut

Oil exchange opens today

By Our Financial Staff

A new kind of crude oil trading begins in London today as the International Petroleum Exchange starts its first crude oil futures contract.

Proponents of the new contract claim that it is part of a revolution in the oil industry that will allow the play of market demand and supply on the exchange to have a greater influence on the administered price decision of oil producing countries.

But critics, especially among the big oil companies, believe the new futures trading will merely attract financial speculators and could lead to greater oil price volatility.

The new contract is based on

oil from the North Sea Brent field, the crude most actively traded on the European free spot market and the most sensitive to price fluctuations.

The contract is the first offered outside the United States. It works in the same way as in the other futures markets that have been trading in the City for decades and cover commodities ranging from gold to potatoes.

Traders at the IPE will contract to buy or sell agreed quantities of high quality sweet crude oil, deliverable on a specified date up to six months ahead.

Traders already refer to Brent as "the futures crude", because

of the chain of speculative transactions which often builds up around a single cargo which may change hands many times before reaching an end-user.

Brent crude is comparable with the US futures crude of West Texas intermediate and light Louisiana sweet, thus laying the basis for extensive arbitrage business between the American and London markets.

The IPE crude trading will start with a February contract but normally will cover six consecutive months after the current month, which will force participants to make price judgments on positions far ahead of the physical market,



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Mr. J. M. Nairn, at
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يَكُونُ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



Lawson calls for radical review to boost economy

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, appeared confident yesterday that the Cabinet's decision to hold public spending to agreed levels for the next three years would allow for progressive tax cuts during the present Parliament if the steady growth of the economy was maintained, as he believed it would be.

But he said a radical re-examination of all Government spending would be needed soon if the economy was to grow to the levels of which it was capable and if a renewed demand for public spending, which current trends indicated was likely in the coming years, was to be prevented.

Mr Lawson said the areas needing the toughest review were social security, defence, health and education. The Government would have to examine the scope for greater private provision in all four.

His remarks, on London Weekend Television's programme *Weekend World*, provoked angry Opposition reaction. Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's health and social security spokesman, said they were the clearest yet from a minister that the Government intended "to take this country back to the poor law where these services are only provided for the poorest on penalty of a means test".

Mr Lawson's plans to start a debate about long-term spending trends are backed by other senior ministers. He said he wanted something done urgently and that after Cabinet discussion the Government

would publish a document giving trends and policy choices.

However, beyond saying he wanted greater privatization he declined to set out his detailed thoughts.

He said that first a greater appreciation of the nature of the problem was needed and made it clear that the Government should not shun such an exercise because it might be unpopular. The public had responded to the Government because it had told the truth and that was how it should continue.

He did not repeat his warning of tax increases in next spring's Budget but said the prospect for tax cuts in 1984 "does not look too good".

He said the Cabinet review meant that for the next three years public spending would be at about the same level, it was a "constant struggle" but there was no reason why the Government should not succeed in holding to the agreed totals.

He said: "If public spending stays at a steady level and the economy is growing, which it is now... that means there is a scope for progressive tax cuts." But that did not mean cuts in every Budget.

Mr Lawson believed that to achieve the growth rate of which Britain was capable, there had to be incentives from tax cuts. He added: "If we can hold public expenditure in real terms... then, with a growing economy, that will give scope for tax cuts and they in turn will foster the economy to grow faster."

Israeli jet shot down

Continued from page 1

mountain road past Syrian artillery batteries at Aintoura, on the opposite side of the Mern river valley on my way back to Beirut from the Bekaa, and found the sides of the hills to the south exploding with rocket fire. The first Israeli jets raced low over the mountain ledges as missiles began to sweep the skies past them.

The Kfir were flying in pairs, darting towards Bhamdoun and Hammama, then twisting above the black smoke that spouted from the hills. But they seemed troubled by the missiles, which came streaking up from at least five locations, the jets turning

and twisting again to avoid them. At one point in the afternoon, the sky was patterned with rope-like missile trails, the rockets passing across the valleys with pink flames at their tails.

Ten minutes after the raids began, the Syrians ordered their own artillery to fire. Towards the end of the raid, three jets flew through one "box" above Aintoura and a fan of three missiles appeared to embrace one of them. There was an explosion and the jet could no longer be seen. This may have been the Kfir that, in Beirut, was observed falling to the ground.

Targets missed, page 6



Commodore Gerhardt on a South African beach and Mr Brian Mossell with his wife Patricia outside their Devon home.

MPs seek spy inquiry on South African officer

Continued from page 1

Commodore Dieter Gerhardt, aged 47, who was born in Berlin, was arrested with his wife, Ruth, last January while commander of the dockyard at the Simonstown naval base.

They went on trial for high treason behind closed doors at the Cape Town Supreme Court on September 5. The hearing resumes tomorrow and a verdict is expected soon.

The Simonstown base is the largest and possibly the most strategically important on the western coast of Africa, commanding the route round the Cape of Good Hope. It has under-ensured since Britain withdrew from it in 1975 after pressure from black African nations.

It is known, however, that the West has contingency plans for possible use of the base if there were a world war, and there has been speculation that those plans may have been

disclosed by Commodore Gerhardt. Between 1956 and 1964 Commodore Gerhardt attended four courses with the Royal Navy: a basic engineering course, a marine engineering course, a radio and weapons applications course.

He also served on a Type 12 frigate, HMS Tenby, between September, 1958 and April, 1959. He will also have been familiar with several British frigates which were sold to South Africa in the early 1960s.

Through all those routes Commodore Gerhardt would have gained information about British ships and their armaments and electronic equipment.

The Ministry that on his course with the Royal Navy he would have had fairly regular access to information classified as confidential, which is the second lowest security classification, and occasionally to secret material.

However, a Whitehall source pointed out that apart from a brief period as South Africa's naval attaché in London at the end of 1968, all these contacts occurred at least 20 years ago and related to equipment which could now be as much as 30 years old.

Britain still has in service one Type 12 frigate, HMS Torquay. The Navy also has several Rotherham class, which were built as modified Type 12s, but these were extensively modernized between 10 and 15 years ago.

Apart from knowledge of the Simonstown naval base, Commodore Gerhardt may also have had access to information from the Silverline naval monitoring station, which monitors communications in the South Atlantic and Indian Oceans.

The Mail on Sunday yesterday suggested that by passing information on the position of

the British task force off the Falklands last year to the Russians, who could then have relayed it to Argentina, Commodore Gerhardt could have contributed to the sinking of HMS Sheffield and HMS Coventry.

However, the Ministry of Defence said that it was confident Commodore Gerhardt did not have access to classified information about the South Atlantic operation.

The Mail on Sunday also suggested that the security of Britain's Polaris nuclear submarines could have been prejudiced by Commodore Gerhardt's activities.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that all those associated with the Polaris programme would have been very carefully screened and highly trained to avoid security risks.

A Devon solicitor, Mr Brian Mossell, aged 45, who lives on

the edge of Dartmoor at Whitechurch near Tavistock, confirmed yesterday that he had been questioned by British intelligence officers about his friendship with Commodore Gerhardt, but the view in Whitehall appears to be that the friendship was entirely innocent.

Mr Mossell was in the Royal Navy for 22 years and retired as a Lieutenant Commander in 1977. He first met Commodore Gerhardt on a training course at Portsmouth in 1963 and again at Plymouth.

They got on well together and met again in South Africa, it is understood, first when Mr Mossell was there as a visiting naval officer and later after leaving the service when he was visiting relatives.

Mr Mossell said: "I was a Russian spy, the competent British authorities would have taken action a long time ago. I am a quiet country solicitor and I want it to remain that way."

Redundancy sought by 30,000 miners

Continued from page 1

In the current issue of *The Miner*, the NUM's newspaper, Mr Scargill argues that the action has been "more drastic and devastating" for management than anyone had expected.

He says that the ban has meant the loss of 1.2 million tonnes output within five weeks, the coal board of £45m - more than enough according to Mr Scargill, to have trebled the 5.2 per cent pay offer now on the table.

"Surely the British taxpayers are beginning to wonder how the board can adopt such an ostrich-like attitude. We again urge Ian MacGregor (chairman of the coal board) and his colleagues to sit down with the union at the negotiating table and talk sense."

Inevitably, however, the number of requests for redundancy is an embarrassment to the NUM's executive, who have been urging their members to oppose pit closures and not to "sell their jobs".

Severance payments for the over-50s vary from £4,200 to £23,874, depending on length of service.

A poll conducted by the Conservative Party last week in Sheffield, Mr Scargill's "back door", is adduced as evidence of his declining popularity. The survey was conducted in mining communities in the area.

When asked what they thought of the leadership of the union 35.6 per cent said it was "disastrous", 11.8 per cent said it was "bad", 18.6 per cent said it was "okay", 20.3 per cent "good" and 10.1 per cent "excellent".

The coal board scheme for early retirement is at present being offered only to miners from other collieries who are also said to be anxious to leave the industry.

Three accused

Three men will appear before Northampton magistrates today charged in connection with the death of Mr Michael Cordery, aged 36, a law lecturer, of New Bradwell, Buckinghamshire, whose body was found in a service road a week ago.

Fall kills youth

Police yesterday were investigating the death of a youth aged 17 who fell 50ft to the ground from a multi-storey car park in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Tomorrow

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales visits the Glamorgan Heritage Centre Committee Project in Mid-Glamorgan, 11.

The Princess of Wales visits the Cardiff Community Dance Project, Cardiff, 10.55.

The Prince of Wales, President, the International Council of the United World Colleges, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, visits Atlantic College, at St Donat's, 12.45.

Princess Anne opens the Department of Education and Science's Presentation on Microelectronics Education Programme in the Grand Hotel, Bristol, 11; and later visits the Bristol Telecommunications Business Centre, on the 25th anniversary of Subscriber Trunk Dialling, in Telephone Avenue, Bristol, 1.35.

Princess Anne presents the Awards of the 1983 Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts and Daily Telegraph Award Scheme at the Savoy Hotel, 6.30; and later dines with the past and present Officers of the 14/20th King's

Hussars at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London, 7.40.

The Duke of Kent, as Chairman, attends the National Electronics Council Symposium at the headquarters of International Computers Limited, Manchester, 10.15.

New exhibitions

Third Gulf Computer Exhibition, Dubai International Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE, 9.30 am to 1 pm, and 5 pm to 8.30 pm daily (ends Thursday).

Contemporary Swedish Photography at the Asian Centre for the Arts, Wacombe Street, Cheltenham; Mon to Sat, 10 to 5 (ends today).

Leaves never grow on trees: Max Ernst's *Histoire Naturelle*, at the Hulton-Deutsch Collection, New York; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30 (ends today).

Organ recital by D. Stanley, the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, 1.

Concert by the Hilliard Ensemble, Bishop Otter College Chapel, Chichester, 7.30.

The Romantic Violin, Pat and Terry Burke, Basil Academy Hall, 7.30.

Talks, Lectures

The Sound of Music: How musical instruments work, by C. L. Thompson, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 2.

Barracks and bulldozers - rescuing Romans in South-east Wales by Vivienne Dickinson, Newport Museum & Art Gallery, Gwent, 7.30.

Nature Notes

Long-tailed tit feed in busy flocks, constantly on the move: when they are all making their soft whispering noise, they sound like the wind itself passing through the branches. On playing fields, black-headed gulls sit in a line on goal posts after they have fed, all facing into the wind together: they preen, wag their tails, and sometimes stretch out a wing, dislodging a neighbour. Brent geese are back from the Arctic to winter on the East coast: they feed on eel-grass, or Zostera, at low tide, preferring the roots, and often dropping the rest for wigwag and other duck to pick up.

Leaves are strewn far and wide by the wind. Trees still with leaves on are mainly platanus, oaks, alders and willows. Young hornbeams are like small golden spires - they will keep their leaves most of the winter.

D.J.M.

Anniversaries

Voltaire, (François Marie Arouet) Paris, 1694. Sir Leslie Ward ("Spy"), caricaturist, London, 1851. Deaths: Henry Purcell, Composer, London, 1695; James Hogg the "Ettrick Shepherd", poet, Altrive, Yarrow, 1835.

COMPUTER COMPETITION

WEEK END DAY 6

The Times/Halifax house price index

Average regional prices of second-hand houses (last 12 months) (percentage change on previous year)

Region	1982	1983
North	25.75	11.8
Yorkshire	26.05	12.2
North-west	24.05	7.2
West Midlands	26.25	5.5
East Midlands	26.25	5.5
South-east	26.25	5.5
South-west	26.25	5.5
London	26.25	5.5
East of England	26.25	5.5
West of England	26.25	5.5
South Wales	26.25	5.5
North Wales	26.25	5.5
Scotland	26.25	5.5
Northern Ireland	26.25	5.5

Roads

Wales and West: A30: Temporary traffic lights and single-line traffic between Okehampton and Launceston Road and between Lifford and Lifford Down. A4061: Single-line traffic and temporary lights on Hirwaun to Tynyddyd. Rhigos Mountain Road. A368: Traffic restrictions at Burlington Combe on West Harpur to Churchill Road, Avon.

North: A167: Major reconstruction in South Parade North. A57: Traffic control in Bedford Road, Woodhouse. A628: Bridge improvement at Hurstons River Bridge, west of Penistone. Single-line traffic, and traffic lights on A628.

Scotland: A68: Single-line traffic with lights two miles south of Lauder (Berwickshire). A726: Lane closures at junction 29 (M8); delays daily. A1: Single-line traffic controlled by lights east of Tynet.

Information supplied by AA

The pound

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia	1.67	1.59
Canada	29.20	27.60
Denmark	84.00	80.00
France	1.89	1.82
Germany	14.88	14.18
Italy	5.85	5.45
Japan	12.45	11.95
Netherlands	4.12	3.93
Spain	159.00	151.00
Sweden	11.90	11.30
Switzerland	1.32	1.27
USA	2.4850	2.3750
Yugoslavia	364.00	356.00
Other	4.63	4.40
Portugal	11.54	10.94
South Africa	200.00	190.00
Spain	1.76	1.63
Spain Ptas	236.50	227.50
Sweden	12.17	11.60
Switzerland	3.54	3.37
USA	1.52	1.47
Yugoslavia	220.00	207.00

For small denomination bank notes only, as quoted by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 340.7

London: The FT index closed .04 down on Friday at 721.4

New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed 3.65 down at 1251.02 on Friday.

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for Premium Bond prizes are: £100,000: 24RZ 738899 (the winner lives in Surrey); £50,000: 1PW 627873 (Harrow); £25,000: 7EX 311924 (co Down).

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Weather forecast

An anticyclone near southern Iceland will move southeast towards northern Britain

6 am to midnight

London, central S, SW England, E, W Wales, Channel Islands, S Wales: Dry with sunny or clear periods; wind NE moderate; max temp 7 to 8C (45-46F). SE, E England, East Angles, Bright moderate; fresh, sun slight or moderate; max temp 6 to 7C (43-45F). N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Argyl, Northern Ireland: Mainly dry with sunny or clear periods; wind N light, max temp 5 to 7C (41-45F). Central Scotland, Orkney: Windy showers; wind N moderate, max temp 5 to 7C (41-45F). Shetland: Bright intervals, windy showers; wind N to NW, fresh; max temp 5C (41F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Rather cold, some sunny intervals; overnight frost and fog patches.

SEA PASSAGES: E North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E) Wind N to NE fresh or strong, sea moderate or rough. St George's Channel: Wind E moderate or fresh, sea slight or moderate. Irish Sea: Wind NE light or moderate, sea slight.

Sun rises: 7.28am Sun sets: 4.09pm

Moon rises: 8.08pm Moon sets: 1.47pm

Last Quarter November 21.

Lighting-up time

London: 4.25 pm to 6.50 am

Stratford: 4.44 pm to 7.00 am

Edinburgh: 4.27 pm to 7.25 am

Manchester: 4.54 pm to 7.16 am

Perth: 5.01 pm to 7.18 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; f, rain; m, mist; n, snow; s, sun; w, wind.

Place	C	F
Belfast	17.0	63
Birmingham	17.0	63
Bristol	17.0	63
Cardiff	17.0	63
Edinburgh	17.0	63
Glasgow	17.0	63
London	17.0	63
Manchester	17.0	63
Newcastle	17.0	63
Nottingham	17.0	63
Sheffield	17.0	63
Southampton	17.0	63
Stirling	17.0	63
Swansea	17.0	63
Torquay	17.0	63
Wolverhampton	17.0	63
Wrexham	17.0	63

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Colwyn Bay, 12C (54F); lowest day temp: Lough, 2C (36F); highest night temp: Aberdeen, 0.1C (32F); lowest night temp: Douglas, 0.1C (32F).

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 10C (50F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 85 per cent. Rain: 2.4 mm, 0.01 in. Sun: 5.4 hr. Wind: 10 mph, 16 km/h. Bar: mean sea level, 1017.4 mbars (30.04 in). Cloud: 1,000 mbars = 25.35 ft.

Sunday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 9C (48F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 7C (45F). Humidity: 6 pm, 85 per cent. Rain: 2.4 mm, 0.01 in. Sun: 5.4 hr. Wind: 10 mph, 16 km/h. Bar: mean sea level, 1017.4 mbars (30.04 in). Cloud: 1,000 mbars = 25.35 ft.

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Sunday: Temp: max 6 am to 8 pm, 9C (48F); min 8 pm to 6 am, 7C (4